



All the Time From Pastor Jim

“God is good all the time. All the time God is good.”

We hear it often. We sing about it. In fact, more than one song quoting these very statements has been written and popularly sung in Christian circles in recent decades.

But do we really believe it? Sure, we believe that God is good in at least a general way—but do we really believe God is good All. The. Time?

I had to ask myself that question recently, when something happened that I viewed and enjoyed gratefully as a great blessing from the Lord. It was easy to respond by saying, “God is good.”

But that occasion was immediately followed by a “downer.” Suddenly my circumstance seemed to be a complete 180 from what I had just experienced, and this led me to consider how I should respond. Should I be disappointed with the Lord? Just asking the question makes the answer obvious. Should I question His wisdom, His love, His power, His rightness, His kindness, His goodness? Again, Scripture is filled with statements and evidence which tell me I would be foolish to do so.

The real issue, I realized, is not whether God is good. Nor is the real issue whether He is good all the time. That He is good all the time is simply the reality. The real issue is whether I truly believe that He is good all the time. It is easy to believe He is good when situations and events are what we want or enjoy. However, what about when life gets tough?

Do I believe God is still good if/when I get miserably sick? Do I believe He is still good if I get terminal cancer? Do I believe He is still good if my child or grandchild dies at a young age? Do I believe He is still good if the economy collapses? Do I believe He is still good if He does not answer my prayer the way I wanted or expected? Do I believe He is good if His will is that I must suffer or even die for Him?

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I know what my answer to such questions should be. How, in the midst of adverse circumstances, painful loss or severe persecution, can I be brought to the point where what my answer should be is what my answer really is?

As I thought through the matter, my conviction that truly God is good all the time became firmly grounded and strengthened through the realization that my ultimate purpose for existence is to glorify His name. I exist to make much of Him, to trust, worship, extol, obey, serve, fear, honor and proclaim Him. That is my God-designed, God-ordained, God-given purpose in life.

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From Pastor Jim *(continued from page 1)*

If God in His mercy and grace gives me great blessings in life, it is so I can respond to those blessings by glorifying His name through thankfulness, proper stewardship of those blessings and ongoing trust, worship, praise, obedience, fear, honor and proclamation of His name. If God in His infinite wisdom, mercy and grace gives me great trials and hardships in life, He is giving me the opportunity to glorify His name through thankfulness, proper stewardship of those trials and ongoing trust, worship, praise, obedience, fear, honor and proclamation of His name! The situations change, but God does not change and neither does my purpose for existence!

How does this evidence the goodness of God all the time? Is it not a good and gracious act on His part to provide me with the opportunity to fulfill my ultimate purpose in life—whether that opportunity be a “blessing” or a trial? There is no higher calling than to glorify Him, and there are no better opportunities for doing so than whatever the all-wise God sends my way—whether those opportunities be enjoyable or occasions of struggle, comfortable or painful, easy or difficult.

June Birthdays

JUNE 12 - *Deb Jacobe*

JUNE 14 - *Micah DeCaro*

JUNE 17 - *Amelia Horejsi*

JUNE 20 - *Henry Jones*

JUNE 25 - *Seth Beyersdorf*

JUNE 25 - *Joshua Leslie*

JUNE 28 - *Clara Jones*

JUNE 28 - *Doug Mueller*

A Year on the Move - A Dunckel Update

If we chose a word for our family this year, it could easily have been “move.” The story of the past few months and our view ahead can be told in a series of moves.

1. Bucharest to Lansing

In January we packed our boxes, said goodbye to our home of 9 years, and boarded the first of three flights that would bring us back to the Midwest. We settled into the mission house of a supporting church and for the next month proceeded to fight our way through the slough of American viruses our children’s bodies didn’t recognize. We threw ourselves into the process of reconnecting with our churches and ministry partners in the US and have been so encouraged by the opportunity to share how God is on the move in Europe and seeing the concern of our church families for the spread of the gospel.



2. Lansing to Stillwater

At the end of this month we will pack up once again and head to Minnesota. We are eager to see our Odens family and our Oakridge church family when we arrive. While we enjoy the Minnesota summer, Joshua will have a chance to visit with a German colleague who will be attending a conference in the US to train ministry leaders. Minnesota is also the location of our ReachGlobal headquarters, so we will have an opportunity to debrief our last term on the field with ReachGlobal staff before heading out on our next BIG move...

3. Stillwater to Budapest

This year has been one of watching God prepare our path, one step at a time. This last week He provided a place for us to stay when we first arrive in Budapest at the end of July. We will be able to sublease a missionary family’s home through the end of the year, while they are out of the country, which will give us time to look for a home of our own as well as process visa paperwork and take care of the other details of an international move. We are praising God for His provision!

What’s ahead for us?

We’re so thankful for a chance to get settled in Budapest for a few weeks before the busy fall season begins. Three major events we’re looking forward to this fall are...

- ◆ Church Multiplication Institute: ReachGlobal Europe staff meet every two years to learn and share knowledge about church planting. All ReachGlobal ministries, from anti-trafficking work to art cafés have a direct line of sight to the goal of planting churches.
- ◆ Diaspora Peoples Europe Consultation: Joshua will meet with this group of practitioners for the third time this fall to learn from their experiences and look for ways to support ministry to Muslim refugees in Europe.
- ◆ Hope for Europe: The annual meeting of the European Evangelical Alliance will be held in Tallinn, Estonia, this year. In addition to the usual series of meetings, seminars and workshops for Christian leaders from across Europe there will also be opportunities to minister to the people of the city of Tallinn.

How can you pray for us?

- ◆ Pray for a healthy transition from the US to Budapest. That we would be able to say good goodbyes and arrive well in our new home.
- ◆ Pray for a safe move as Joshua drives, first our car, and then our belongings across the twisting roads of the Carpathian mountains.
- ◆ Pray for God to prepare ministry connections for us and us for them as we re-enter life and ministry in Europe later this summer.

June Bible Reading

1	Ruth 3	Proverbs 1:8-33
2	Ruth 4	Proverbs 2:1-22
3	Catch-up day	Proverbs 3:1-35
4	Catch-up day	Proverbs 4:1-27
5	1 Samuel 1:1-2:11	Proverbs 5:1-6:19
6	1 Samuel 2:12-4:1a	Proverbs 6:20-35
7	1 Samuel 4:1b-5:12	Proverbs 7:1-27
8	1 Samuel 6-7	Proverbs 8:1-36
9	1 Samuel 8-9	Proverbs 9:1-18
10	1 Samuel 10-12	Proverbs 10
11	1 Samuel 13.1-14:48	Proverbs 11
12	1 Samuel 14:49-15:35	Proverbs 12
13	1 Samuel 16-17	Proverbs 13
14	1 Samuel 18-19	Proverbs 14
15	1 Samuel 20-21	Proverbs 15:1-29
16	1 Samuel 22-23	Proverbs 15:30-33
17	1 Samuel 24-25	Proverbs 16
18	1 Samuel 26-27	Proverbs 17
19	1 Samuel 28-29	Proverbs 18
20	1 Samuel 30-31	Proverbs 19
21	Catch-up day	Proverbs 20
22	Catch-up day	Proverbs 21
23	2 Samuel 1-2	Proverbs 22:1-16
24	2 Samuel 3-4	Proverbs 22:17-29
25	2 Samuel 5-7	Proverbs 23
26	2 Samuel 8-9	Proverbs 24:1-22
27	2 Samuel 10-11	Proverbs 24:23-34
28	2 Samuel 12	Proverbs 25
29	2 Samuel 13-14	Proverbs 26
30	2 Samuel 15-16	Proverbs 27

Two-Year Bible Reading Plan

This Bible reading plan is designed to take you through the Old and New Testaments in two years, and through the Psalms and Proverbs four times during that period.



June Calendar

*Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of mercies
and God of all comfort,
2 Corinthians 1:3*

Friday 1	6:30 a.m. - Emmaus Men's Meeting
Saturday 2	
Sunday 3	8:30 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:20 a.m. - Worship Service 12:30 p.m. - Emmaus Life/Care Group 6:30 p.m. - Conquering Through Christ Life/Care Group
Monday 4	6:30 p.m. - Missions Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. - Deacons Meeting
Tuesday 5	7:00 p.m. - Worship Team Practice
Wednesday 6	9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 6:30 p.m. - Connecting in Prayer
Thursday 7	6:30 p.m. - Psalm 19 Life/Care Group
Friday 8	6:30 a.m. - Emmaus Men's Meeting
Saturday 9	
Sunday 10	8:30 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:20 a.m. - Worship Service 2:00 p.m. - Good Samaritan Service 12:30 p.m. - Taste & See Life/Care Group 6:30 p.m. - CTC Life/Care Group
Monday 11	6:30 p.m. - Elders & Deacons Meeting
Tuesday 12	
Wednesday 13	9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 6:30 p.m. - Connecting in Prayer
Thursday 14	6:30 p.m. - Psalm 19 Life/Care Group
Friday 15	6:30 a.m. - Emmaus Men's Meeting
Saturday 16	

Sunday 17	FATHER'S DAY 8:30 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:20 a.m. - Worship Service 4:30 p.m. - Emmaus Life/Care Group 6:30 p.m. - CTC Life/Care Group
Monday 18	3:00 p.m. - Elders Meeting
Tuesday 19	
Wednesday 20	9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 6:30 p.m. - Connecting in Prayer
Thursday 21	6:30 p.m. - Psalm 19 Life/Care Group 7:00 p.m. - Men's Book Study
Friday 22	6:30 a.m. - Emmaus Men's Meeting
Saturday 23	9:30 a.m. - Worship Team Practice
Sunday 24	8:30 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:20 a.m. - Worship Service 4:30 p.m. - Taste & See Life/Care Group 6:30 p.m. - CTC Life/Care Group
Monday 25	
Tuesday 26	
Wednesday 27	9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 6:30 p.m. - Connecting in Prayer
Thursday 28	6:30 p.m. - Psalm 19 Life/Care Group
Friday 29	6:30 a.m. - Men's Book Study
Saturday 30	8:00 a.m. - Men's Book Study

Let It Be Said of Us - Song of the Month

Submitted by James DeCaro

While *Let It Be Said of Us* might seem at first glance to be about us, it is all about the Lord. Our desire is that when people see us, they see Christ. When times are difficult, we want others to recognize that we struggle and finish the race only by the power of our risen Lord. When others sin, we want the world to see that we can forgive because God has forgiven us in Christ. And as the world struggles for even temporary peace, we want to be ruled by the peace of Christ, so that the world might know Him who has made lasting peace possible by the blood of His cross.

Let us sing about Christ this month, remembering that His cross is our glory and that we depend on His power!

Verse 1

*Let it be said of us
That the Lord was our passion;
That with gladness we bore
Ev'ry cross we were given;
That we fought the good fight;
That we finished the course;
Knowing within us
The pow'r of the risen Lord.*

Verse 2

*Let it be said of us
We were marked by forgiveness;
We were known by our love
And delighted in meekness.
We were ruled by His peace
Heeding unity's call;
Joined as one body
That Christ would be seen by all.*

Chorus

*Let the cross be our glory
And the Lord be our song;
By mercy made holy
By the Spirit made strong.
Let the cross be our glory
And the Lord be our song;
'Til the likeness of Jesus
Be through us made known.
Let the cross be our glory
And the Lord be our song.*

CCLI Song # 1855882
Steve Fry

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Oakridge
Community Church

610 County Road 5
Stillwater, MN 55082
www.oakridgecommunity.org
Email: churchoffice@oakridgecommunity.org



OCC Vision

The vision of Oakridge Community Church is to spread a joyful passion for the absolute, eternal supremacy of Jesus Christ in all things, to all peoples.

OCC Mission

The mission of Oakridge Community Church is to glorify God by delighting in, declaring and displaying the gospel of Jesus Christ.