

Heartbeat

INDIAN HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH

January 24, 2016

A day is coming when the Lord Jesus will return and establish a new Heaven and a new earth. We will see the fullness of His majesty and glory as He executes His wrath on those who have rejected Him, and receives those who have believed in Him. It will be a time like no other.

While we wait for that day, the Holy Spirit is transforming us into His likeness. “We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure” (1 John 3:2, 3).

We don’t know when Christ will return, only the Father knows, but we do know that He will come again. Are you ready to meet Him? Have your sins been washed away by the blood of the Lamb?

Please settle this matter today, dear one. If your name is not written in the Book of Life, you will be cast forever into the Lake of Fire.

The good news is that God in great love and mercy provided the way of salvation for mankind. At great sacrifice to Himself, the Father sent His beloved Son to earth to die for the sins of the world.

The Bible tells us that by confessing our sins and believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior we are forgiven and brought into God’s family. Our name will be written in the Book of Life and we will spend all of eternity in Glory.

A Better Day Is Coming

Life has its ups and downs and there are times when life is just plain hard. It’s not an easy road when your husband gets laid off, or your wife’s tests reveal cancer. Loved ones die, a friend betrays your trust, and can children give their parents gray hair? . . . but a better day is coming.

Until then, the Savior will carry us through the darkest days. When the trials are overwhelming and it’s hard to find joy, remember our Creator’s promise:

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

Hold on to the Savior, dear one. Your trial won’t last forever and a better day is coming.

Have a good week!

Four Basic Facts of the Gospel

Gil Rugh

It is of utmost importance that every believer be able to clearly and concisely present the gospel to an unbeliever. I think we often assume that people who have been believers for a while can present the facts of salvation, but that is not always the case.

I am impressed that when Paul, who was in prison for his preaching of the gospel, asked other believers to pray for him, he asked that he might proclaim the gospel with clarity and boldness (see Ephesians 6:19).

Paul was one of the greatest evangelists of all time, and yet he desired to present the gospel even more effectively. This should remind us that presenting the gospel is never easy. We can be deluded into thinking that because the basic facts of the gospel are simple, it is easy to communicate them to the lost.

That is not so. Otherwise, Paul, who suffered so much for the gospel, would not have had to ask for boldness and the ability to preach the gospel clearly.

Probably the single greatest help to me in my own personal witnessing has been to learn a particular pattern of presenting the gospel. After I mastered the basic presentation, I could vary it from time to time and still know where

I wanted to pick up a conversation, where I wanted to take it, and how I was going to get there.

The gospel is simple. A little child could learn and present the facts of the gospel. But if you have been a believer for any length of time, you are undoubtedly aware that presenting the gospel with clarity and simplicity is a great struggle.

We pray for open doors and for boldness to present the truth, but we have to be ready to take advantage of the opportunities when they arise.

There are many different types of gospel presentations, but four things must be included in any presentation. To be saved, a person must know and believe these four basic facts:

Man is a sinner.

“There is none righteous, not even one” (Rom. 3:10).

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

The penalty for sin is death.

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Rom. 5:12).

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“For the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23).

Christ came and paid the penalty for sin.

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).

It is by believing in Christ that we experience His forgiveness.

“If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation” (Rom. 10:9, 10).

These are not the only verses you can use, of course, but it can be helpful to keep the references all in one section of the Bible.

Remember, the goal in presenting the gospel is not to impress people with what a great Bible scholar you are or to wow them with all the verses you have memorized. It is to help them understand clearly what God says about their condition and His salvation.

You have the verses. You have the points. Challenge yourself to work on it this week. Every day, sit down and practice sharing the gospel. Try to get some time alone and go over it out loud. It might sound strange coming out of your

mouth at first, but soon it will feel as normal as saying, “Oh, I see the sun is shining today.”

Practice, practice, practice. Then you can pray for open doors and for boldness to share, because you have something to share.

Church Leadership

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Jim Krieger Wee Care
Curt Kuster Communion
Nick McElvain High School
Tom Price Nursing Home
Todd Smith Sunday School

Family News

Death. Ruby Ganzel, the wife of Robert and mother of Carl, died January 14, 2016.

Hospitalized. Lynn Young was a patient at St. Elizabeth.

Hospitalized. Ruth Porter was a patient at Bryan East Hospital.

Hospitalized. Cindy Andreesen was a patient at Lincoln Surgical Hospital.

Children's Studies

Sunday School. The children studied Isaiah 1:1–20 and learned about Israel's sin and God's solution.

Children's Church. The children studied 1 Kings 12 and learned about God punishing Jeroboam. The lesson goal is for students to understand that blessings come with obedience.

Information

Choir. We need singers! If you'd like to make a joyful sound, we'd love to have you join us. Come to the choir room (upstairs) on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. We'll prepare for Sunday services and the Easter concert.

Boys of Faith pinewood derby cars are available for purchase in the south lobby. The cost is \$8 per kit. The BOF pinewood derby will be held on Saturday, March 19. If you have any questions, contact Ben

Teele or Jonathan Goodding.

Ladies Retreat will be held February 26, 27 at the Lied Lodge in Nebraska City. The theme is "Biblical Friends Forever" and will be team-taught by Titus Tuesday teachers. Stop by the table in the south lobby to sign up. Today is the last day to register. Contact Shelley Pratt for late registrations.

Issues in Our Contemporary World meets Wednesdays from 7–8 p.m. in room 1414. Donald Goertzen is teaching on Eretz Israel—the Land. Everyone is welcome.

Titus Tuesday. Ladies, please join us Tuesday, January 26 at 9:30 a.m. (arrive at 9:15 to pick up brunch items and settle in) as Sheila Abresch teaches "The Power of Words." The second hour class, taught by Jen Huff and Amy Johnson, is "Make and Take Wooden Plaque." Child care and home school class provided.

Offering Envelopes for 2016 are available at Sound Words until the end of January. Envelopes not picked up will be mailed to you. If you don't have an offering envelope you can have one issued to you at Sound Words.

Men's Retreat will be held Friday and Saturday, February 19 and 20 at the Leadership Center in Aurora, NE. Stop by the table in the south lobby to register today.

Faith: Is It Really that Simple? Join us this Wednesday at 7 p.m. for "What does the Bible mean by

“faith” and how does this affect our lives?” The main text for the this lesson is Romans 4. No extra books are necessary for the class.

Teacher Needed for a short gospel lesson on Sundays at The Waterford (Alzheimer’s Unit) on South 27th Street. A musician/singer is also needed.

Several workers are needed to care for children in the beginning walker’s room during the second hour on Sunday mornings. Please contact Jennifer Lenzen at 402-435-0877 if you are interested in serving in this way.

Hospitalizations. Please call the church, 402-483-4541, and notify Pastor Aaron Nicholson for all hospitalizations and births.

Nursing Home Door-to-Door Evangelism. If you’d like to help, call Adam Flaugh, 402-580-3014.

Forgotten Clothing. Coats, jean jackets, hats, gloves and more are waiting to be picked up by their owners. Stop by the south lobby and check the coat racks on the far end for your personal belongings.

Weather Alert. If you are wondering if the church will be open or closed due to the weather, check www.ihcc.org.

Home Bible Studies. If you are looking for a Home Bible Study, or are interested in hosting a study in your home, contact Matt Sherman at 402-465-8030.

Parents. We have been practicing fire/tornado and lock-down drills in the children’s classes. We are thinking about safety for all ages and working hard to be prepared if an emergency should arise.

Weddings & Funerals. Please call the church, 402-483-4541, and ask for Pastor Duane Nelsen or Pastor Aaron Nicholson for wedding and funeral arrangements.

Used Book section is available at Sound Words. You may contribute to or make purchases of discounted and hard-to-find books. Our shelves are growing and the stock is constantly changing in both the fiction and non-fiction categories.

Worship Service Online. If you are unable to attend church on Sunday and would like to worship with us through the internet, log on to www.ihcc.org and click on Resources at the top of the page. Then, click on Live Stream. The services start at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Girls’ Choir (fourth–twelfth grade) meets Wednesday from 5-6:15 p.m. in the choir room.

Last Week’s Message

Jan. 17 AM. Gil Rugh. GR 1825. *Measuring Success In Ministry.* 2 Corinthians 11:16-29

Jan. 17 PM. Gil Rugh. GR 1937. *God Created Man Male and Female.* 1 Peter 3:1-7; Selected Verses

Let us be good
stewards of the
Lord's blessings

No Food or Drink

in the Auditorium
or Chapel

Heartbeat

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WINTER INSTRUCTIONS

As cold, snow and ice storms move
in, Duane Nelsen and Kevin Wheat will
try to keep abreast of the weather and
road conditions.

Weather forecasting is tricky—even
the professionals don't always get it
right—but with the help of local meteo-
rologists, Duane and Kevin will try their
best to make sure we are not driving
when it would be best to stay home.

Of course, each of us must use good
judgment with the weather, drive safely,
pray, and watch out for the other guy!

Church cancellations or delays will
be posted on the church website: www.ihcc.org



This Week's Events

Sunday

Sunday Night Church
Girls of Grace, Boys of Faith 6 p.m.
Sunshine Kids 6:30 p.m.

Monday

Sisters

Tuesday

Titus Tuesday 9:30 a.m.
Mansion Builders 7–9 p.m.

Wednesday

Girls' Choir 5–6:15 p.m.
Orchestra 6–7:30 p.m.
Awana 6:45 p.m.
Junior High 6:45 p.m.
Issues in Our Contemporary World
Choir 7–8:30 p.m.
Faith: Is it Really that Simple? 7 p.m.
Mansion Builders 7–9 p.m.

Thursday

Alpha Omega Study 7-8 p.m.

Saturday

Boys of Faith Riflery Clinic
Boys of Faith Lock-in

Future Events

February 6

Boys of Faith Riflery Clinic

February 12

Girls of Grace Daddy Daughter
Date Night

February 14

Baptism

February 19–20

Men's Retreat

February 26–27

Ladies' Retreat

February 28

Communion

March 5–9

High School Ski Trip

March 19

Boys of Faith Pinewood Derby

March 25

Good Friday

March 27

Resurrection Sunday

April 12

Brunch Break 6:15 p.m.

May 26–29

Girls of Grace Camp

June 13–18

Senior High Camp

July 11–15

Vacation Bible School

August 10–13

Junior High Camp



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