

Thoughts From Keith

Feuding

The infamous feud between the Hatfields and McCoys is history. It was conflict that involved not only hatred, but murder. It claimed 11 lives.

The story goes that the feuding between the McCoys of Kentucky and Hatfields of West Virginia began in 1878 when Randolph McCoy accused one of the Hatfields of stealing a hog.

Feelings festered and other incidents occurred that finally resulted in the shooting death of Ellison Hatfield in 1882. Retaliation began and the feuding lasted for over 125 years, even to more recent times when the families fought court battles over timber rights and cemetery plots.

On Saturday, June 14, 2003, sixty descendants of the original clans gathered in Pikefield, Kentucky, to sign a document declaring an official end to more than a century of conflict. The treaty calling for peace read: "We do hereby and formally declare an official end to all hostilities, implied, inferred, and real, between the families, now and forevermore. We ask by God's grace and love that we be forever remembered as those that bound

together the hearts of two families to form a family of freedom in America."

We should commend these descendants for their courage to finally bring about reconciliation after all these years. Hopefully, it won't take 125 years to resolve conflict in your life or family.

We've been examining the topic of conflict in recent weeks and during the month of July our focus will turn to how we go about developing relationships in such a way as to prevent conflict from occurring in the first place. In other words, what is wise from a Biblical perspective when it comes to forming and maintaining relationships?

Peacemaking is a much better way of life than feuding.

Also, behind the scenes, a lot of work is taking place to select a new Pastor of Student Ministries. Please pray for the hiring team and the Leadership Team in the process.



BY KEITH JOHNSON

SERMONS IN
JULY

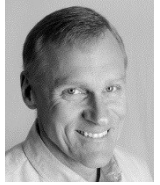


CAN WE ALL GET ALONG?

PEACEMAKING & RELATIONAL WISDOM

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| July 1 & 2 | Go and Be Reconciled |
| July 8 & 9 | Being God Aware |
| July 15 & 16 | Being Others Aware |
| July 22 & 23 | Being Self Aware |
| July 29 & 30 | Series Wrap Up |

FREE RANGE DEVOTIONS



BY SEAN CONNOLLY

ATHABASCA FALLS

"This is a little close," the park ranger said nicely, but nervously. "So if you could please all move away, that would be great." A group of people had gathered just off the parking lot at the start of the path toward Athabasca Falls in Jasper National Park, one of the busier overlooks in the park. But they weren't looking or moving toward the falls; they were all stopped and craning their necks to look in the opposite direction. Toward a grizzly bear. Less than 20 meters away.

Despite all the warnings the rangers and campground hosts and guides and pamphlets and information sheets and the internet and road signs provide about how dangerous bears can be, and how you should stay at least 100 meters away from them, adults and children could not resist getting an up close glimpse of a real live bear. Bears are unpredictable, all the information says, so best to stay away from them to avoid an "encounter"; an "encounter" which could end up getting you severely mauled and/or killed. In the bear's defense, this one did not seem the slightest bit bothered by all the attention, content to forage around in the grass. Which conceivably could have lead people to drop their guard and move in closer. And closer, and closer, until finally the bear has enough and lashes out at the people.

Thankfully, nothing like that happened, but our approach toward sin can be like that, too. Despite all the warnings, we are curious, and step closer toward sin by checking out just a scene from that movie, or surfing over to that website for a peek, or trying just one hit because everybody else is, or engaging in just a little gossip about that person. Sounds innocent enough, at least until the consequences kick in.

Until lives get wrecked. Until relationships fall apart. All of which could have been avoided by staying clear of the temptation, and not acting on the desire, in the first place.

James tells us, "each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death" (James 1:14-15). In other words, it's our own actions and decisions that allow us to drop our guard toward sin and lead us off to death. It's not the bear's fault if we cannot stay more than 100 meters way.

What are you a little too close to and should move away from?



ANNOUNCEMENTS

55 and Better Summer Picnic

There will be no 55er luncheon in August, so it's time to get together for lunch one last time before fall! Join us on Friday, July 14, at 12:00 Noon for some good old-fashioned fried chicken and all the fun fixings at our summer picnic. Let Mary in the church office know that you'll be attending! And be on the lookout for information about a summer "road trip" coming up sometime in the next few weeks.

Family Promise Host Week at LCC

Life Covenant will be hosting another week of Family Promise July 16-23. We are excited to have the families staying in our church during our host week! We will provide meals, pantry items, overnight hosts and plenty of hospitality. Please sign up in the foyer or call Sami Butler (406-461-8797) or Maureen Oelkers (406-439-3768) to participate. Thanks so much for serving!

Vacancy Announcement - Facilities Coordinator

Life Covenant Church is seeking a part-time Facilities Coordinator who appreciates and understands the importance of caring for and maintaining the church facilities as an essential component to fruitful ministry to people. For more details on the position and how to apply, please see the Vacancy Announcement in the foyer or on our website at: <http://lifecchelena.org/about-us/job-vacancies>

Discover LIFE

On Sunday, July 23rd at 4pm join us for a one-session introduction to what Life Covenant Church believes, how we are organized, how we are seeking to live out the five purposes God has for our lives, and our vision for the future. A pizza dinner is provided and childcare is available if needed. Sign-up in the church foyer, online, or by calling the office.



It's time to register for GLS on Aug. 3 & 4. To get tickets at the reduced price of \$99, for our church only, register using the QR code or go to globalleadership.org and use our priority code: 23PHSHOST. Be sure to use "Life Covenant Church" under "Your Organization". Student tickets are \$50 which can be purchased by using the "GLS Student" envelopes in the church foyer. Fill out and submit this envelope to the office to register as a student. Call the church office if you have any questions (406) 442-6813.

THE TBR SHELF

KATHY BISCHOFF



Hello, Fellow Readers. A person would have to have been under a rock lately to not notice how contentious our public discourse has become. And sadly, not just the ones in public. Fortunately, there are those out there who, instead of cursing the darkness are lighting candles.

Rich Villodas is one of those. As lead pastor of New Life Fellowship in Queens, New York, he's had ample opportunity to learn, practice and grow the principles

he outlines in his book, *Good, Beautiful and Kind: Becoming Whole in a Fractured World*.

Sin, both personal and institutional, is where he begins. Loving well, both personally and in community, is where he ends. Along the way are the practical but difficult steps of self-examination, confrontation and forgiveness. Sounds fun, right? Fortunately, he doesn't shy from sharing his own stories as examples. Stories that often left me laughing tearfully in recognition.

It's a heavy subject but Pastor Villodas approaches it with courage, humility, humor and grace, leaving us with both conviction and hope. As always, "Happy reading"!



Thank you to those who served at Life Covenant Church VBS 2023!

Last month, over 125 children and 85 volunteers made their way through Babylon. Along the way we learned that God is always with us, no matter what we are facing! Throughout the week, kids brought in school supplies and living essentials to fill backpacks for the Christ Hope Orphanage in Tanzania. By the end of the week we had enough supplies to fill 60 backpacks!

A huge thank you to the volunteers who guided kids through the week, to the people who donated craft and game supplies and food for the staff, to our amazing set builder, Dave Anderson, to the decorating crew, the clean-up crew, and to everyone who prayed for VBS. Life Covenant Church is filled with people who have chosen to invest in the lives of children. Vacation Bible School could not happen without each and every one of you. All of these items donated, all of these minutes and hours spent behind the scenes or upfront—all of them MATTER! Thank you!

EN FUEGO

6th - 8th Grade

September—May

Weekly | Mondays at 6:30pm

Summer Events

July 19th @ 6:30pm | Movie Night

July 24th @ 6:00pm | Mt. Helena Hike



9th - 12th Grade

September—May

Weekly | Wednesdays at 6:30pm

Recharge Bible Study

July 9th, 16th, 23rd @ 7:00pm

Summer Events

July 13th @ 7:00pm | Game Night at LCC

July 25th @ 7:00pm | Movie Night at LCC

Student Ministries Coordinator: Grace Johnson | grace@lifecchelena.org (406) 442-6813

Preschool Happenings

LCC Preschool needs your help! Do you have a hobby you would love to share with some curious kiddos? Do you work someplace that would be delighted to tour some preschoolers around? We would love to hear from you! Preschoolers love learning something new and almost everything is new at this age. If you would like to share something you enjoy with us, please call the front office or email me at preschool@lifecchelena.org. Also, do you have random craft supplies cluttering your home? We would be happy to use up your leftover yarn, bits up scrapbooking paper, or whatever else you have lying around. Most of all, thank you for keeping our program and the preschool kiddos in your prayers!

Happy Summer! - Harmony Letang



Planting Truth
Growing Faith

At each service, following the offering, we'll dismiss children to one of the pods listed:

- Seedlings / Sprouts pod: ages three and four through 2nd grade (Rm 104)
- Roots pod: 3rd - 5th grade (Rm 202/204)

Pastor of Children's Ministries: Deanna Carlson | deanna@lifecchelena.org (406) 442-6813



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Helena, MT 59601

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Return Service Requested



***“Love the Lord your
God with all your
heart...”***

***“...Love your neighbor
as yourself.”***

Matthew 22:37-38