

# JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER

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## Thoughts From Keith

#### Can We All Get Along?

First, we say good-bye to Sam Bodnar early this month. Sam has done a great job in his ministry to our middle-school and high school students. He has also earned the respect of adults as he cared for and loved people of all ages. He has used his many gifts well here at Life Covenant. We wish him well as he continues ministry in Indiana and pray for God's rich blessing on his life. Thanks Sam.

This month we begin a new series of sermons. By way of introduction, let me take you back to May 1, 1992. Tensions were extremely high in the Los Angeles area. Riots had begun following the verdict in the Rodney King trial. Many in Los Angeles had taken to the streets. People were being beaten and killed. Stores were looted and on fire.

The rioting lasted six days and killed some 50 people, with 2,000 more injured; it ended only after the California Army National Guard, the and the Marine Corps provided Army, reinforcements to re-establish control.

In the midst of the turmoil, King advocated for a peaceful end to the conflict. Rodney King himself BY KEITH JOHNSON



made a statement in front of the cameras, "I just want to say - you know - can we all get along? Can we, can we get along?"

Today for many, tensions run high as well. And that question, "Can we all get along?" is fair for us. We could ask the question as if it needed a clear answer of, "yes," or "no," or "maybe, if we work at it". And if that's the case, I'd answer yes, we can, if we'll just follow some instructions that are clear to us in Scripture.

We could also use those words in the sense of let's try to get along. Let's be kind to people around us, let's be civil to the people around us, let's love people around us. And again, we can turn to Scripture for encouragement on how to do that.

As we start the month of June, and this new series, we'll look at Biblical guidelines for how to handle conflict, how to be peacemakers and what it takes to have relational wisdom. This is a series that I hope will extend beyond our congregation. I encourage you in the next month to invite people to this series and to engage with us about how we all can get along better.



**Understanding Conflict** 

Glorify God

Get the Log Out of Your Own Eye

**Gently Restore** 

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### FREE RANGE DEVOTIONS

#### OPERATION BONGO

According to Sam Anderson in his book Boom Town, Oklahoma City (OKC) suffers from a "civic inferiority complex." Since its raucous founding by way of a land rush in 1889, the City has yearned to be seen as an equal to larger, more established and prestigious cities, which has led OKC to agree to some questionable measures that were not in the citizens' best long-term interest.

For example, in the early 1960's, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was searching for a test city where it could study the effects of supersonic commercial airline flights, which meant subjecting citizens to sonic booms. All. Day. Long. For sixth months straight. According to Anderson, the FAA search criteria for the test, named Operation Bongo, was a city "outside of the mainstream but not irrelevant; desperate to improve its standing in the world; not too big, not too small."

In other words, OKC. With the promise of becoming the first hub of supersonic flight and the chance to finally take its place on the world stage, the OKC Chamber of Commerce lobbied hard "for the privilege of allowing the FAA to rain down artificial thunder on its citizens."

When military jets began pounding the city with sonic booms, the complaints began

BY SEAN CONNOLLY

immediately. Within three weeks, when the head of the FAA came to see how the test was going, he needed a police escort everywhere because of all the death threats he received. In the end, thanks to the constant barrage of negative public reaction, Bongo was a bust because the Chamber of Commerce put potential prestige ahead of the well-being of people.

As tempting as it is to be the first, or the biggest, or the best, it may not be in our best long-term interests. For example, when Satan tempted Jesus in the desert (Matthew 4:1-11), Satan promised Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He bowed down and worshipped him. Satan was trying to tap into the very human desire for power and prestige. But Jesus refused his own immediate gratification, and instead focused on God's long-term plan of forgiveness and eternal salvation for people.

And because Jesus was obedient to God by resisting the temptation, God granted the prestige Satan was offering anyway, making the Jesus the name above all names and making every knee bow to Him (Philippians 2:8-11).

What short-term gain are you being tempted by that could damage your long-term well-being and God's long-term plan for you?

www.seanconnwriter.com.

### THE TBR SHELF

KATHY BISCHOFF

Hello, Fellow Readers. My shelf containing books to be read, (fondly called my TBR shelf) is overflowing. I am determined to get through them. Again and again I tell myself that I won't buy one more book until I've finished the ones already on my TBR shelf. After laughing hysterically and wiping the tears from my eyes,

inspiration strikes. Surely, this is from the Holy Spirit. If I share my wealth of reading material with others I'll be A) motivated to finish my books and B) able to BUY MORE BOOKS! God is indeed good. And so, in the effort to be faithful to my new found ministry, I will be sharing my TBR shelf with you, Fellow Readers, in future newsletters. Hopefully, we'll also be sharing the beauty, the wonder and the awe of our God.

Happy Reading!

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 55 and Better Luncheon

At the end of April, several members of our congregation (and 55 and Better!) took an amazing trip to the Holy Land. It was an experience they would love to share with all of you! Baptisms in the Jordan River, camel rides in Petra, going into Jesus' tomb, a hike through Hezekiah's tunnel, a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, and floating in the Dead Sea! Join us for lunch on Friday June 9th at noon with authentic Israeli food prepared by your hosts, see a video of the places that were visited and hear the stories surrounding them, and spend some time chatting with our travelers! They are looking forward to sharing with you! Contact Mary in the church office and let her know that you'll be joining us!











#### LCC Facility Projects Day

Come join us on Saturday, June 10 from 8am-11am to clean up the parking lot, flower beds, trim some trees, and other various outdoor projects. Sign up in the foyer or just come by! Thank you for serving.

#### "Two Roads" A Four-Session Summer Life Group Study

Join a four-session life group called Two Roads designed to help us experience real, authentic relationships rooted in the miracle of God's grace through Jesus Christ. By reading and discussing the first three chapters of the book, The Cure, and through videos and scripture, this study guides you along the path of trusting God and others with who you really are. Meets Thursdays at 12pm on the following dates: 6/8, 6/15, 6/29, 7/6. Sign up online or in the foyer or by email at neil@lifecchelena.org.





August 3-4, 2023 | GlobalLeadership.org/Summit

It's time to register for GLS on Aug. 3 & 4 2023! 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. Please call the church office if you have any questions (406) 442-6813.

#### Foster the FAMily

Life Covenant Church is partnering with Promise686 to launch our own Foster the FAMily Ministry! Our vision is "...to set the lonely in families." Psalm 68:6. Together, we can care for vulnerable children. You (yes, you!) have unique & perfect talents to make this happen. Do you have a heart for kids, but don't know where to start? Are you looking for a time flexible ministry? Do you want to make lasting impact? Foster the FAMily is for you!

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VBS June 19th - 23rd from 9am - 12pm | Ages 3yrs - Entering 5th Grade | Registration Closes June 11th Serve: We still need volunteers to help with VBS! Graduating 5th graders, middle and high schoolers, and adults of all ages are encouraged to join in the fun. There are so many ways to help! Together we can

make this an amazing experience for our kids. Go to vbslcc.com for more information and to sign up! After you're signed up to help, mark your calendar: Mandatory VBS Staff Meeting, Monday, June 12th, 6:30-8:30pm. The VBS staff meeting contains an RTR refresher for all VBS staff.

**Donate:** You can help provide VBS supplies by picking up a donation slip in the foyer. Return your donations to the church by Sunday, June 11th. You can also sign-up to bring a food item for our hospitality room to care for our volunteer staff using the sign-up sheet in the foyer.

#### Children's Ministry Reducing the Risk Training

Are you new to VBS or the Life Kids Team or due for re-training? RTR training is available on Monday, June 12 from 5:15-6:15pm. Contact Deanna at (406) 442-6813 or deanna@lifecchelena.org

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#### **LCC Preschool Happenings**

Our fun-filled year of stories, songs, friends, and adventures has flown by. It has been a true delight and blessing to watch all the kiddos grow so much this year. I am so thankful for all those who have given time and shared God's big heart with our preschoolers. Thank you to Chris Mest, Mardi Benson, Prudence Wigen, and Sherry Sprenger for all your help in the classroom. Thank you to Walt Joyce for making each field trip a success. Thank you to Angela Brent for your guidance and support as I learned the ropes. Thank you to all the church staff for your help big and small. Thank you to our preschool parents and families for your loving support and encouragement

The preschoolers and I are so blessed by you all! Happy Summer! - Harmony



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#### **Open House Send Off for Sam**

Join us for an Open House event for Sam on Friday, June 9 from 6-8pm at Life Covenant Church. This is an opportunity to drop in and give your well wishes and thanks to Sam for his investment in the lives of our middle and high school students and our church family as whole. Stop by any time during that window of time to enjoy some refreshments and to say goodbye.



#### **Student Ministry Updates**

We are excited to share that Grace Johnson will be coming on board as a part-time paid Student Ministries Intern for the summer! Beginning in early June, Grace will be working alongside the existing adult volunteers in both En Fuego and Voltage to help provide stability and generate momentum through a variety of summer events and activities for students. Grace, who grew up at Life Covenant Church and was an active part of our En Fuego and Voltage ministries, is returning to Helena from college for the summer where she is studying missional ministry. She is excited to serve in this capacity and to continue creating a safe place for students to learn about Jesus Christ and to grow in their faith.

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



Life Covenant 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



# Popsicles in the Park!

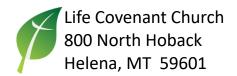
Who: Life Covenant Kids, families and friends

When: Saturday, June 24th, 7-8pm

Where: Memorial Park in front of the

playground entrance

Cool off with a refreshing popsicle and connect with other families at Life Covenant Church!



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