



Kissinger's Church

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Kissinger's Caller

April 2020

Calling People to Christ!

Slaying the Giant of Fear

The following are excerpts from a Sermon and the book "Slaying the GIANTS in your life" by David Jeremiah

Fear is not a stranger to me. And it's probably not a stranger to you either. If we're honest, we're all a lot like the little boy who had two lines in a play. The two lines that he was supposed to say when he walked out on the stage were these: "It is I. Be not afraid". But he came out on the stage and saw the crowd and what came out was: "It's me and I'm scared". Someone has defined fear as "a small trickle of doubt that runs through your mind and eventually wears such a great channel that all of your thoughts drain into it". The Bible doesn't paint the picture of God's people living without fear, and there's no such thing as reality without fear. There will always be some fear. In fact, in the Old and New Testament there are many, many stories that are dominated by the theme of fear.

What about the stories of the disciples on the Sea of Galilee when the storm comes up and they're so afraid and the Lord has to come and calm the sea? There are many, many occasions when fear is the main player in the story like David and Goliath. The reason Saul wouldn't go out and face Goliath is because he was afraid. They couldn't find anybody in all of Israel that was willing to go out and fight this giant, except for David. But the story in the Old Testament, in my estimation, that best illustrates the principles of fear that you and I deal with every day is the story of the 12 spies who left Kadesh Barnea and went into the land of Canaan to spy out the land that God had given them.

That story is told primarily in Numbers 13 and 14, but it is reviewed in a very condensed version in the first chapter of Deuteronomy. So, I'd like for you to turn with me to Deuteronomy chapter 1 and there, beginning at verse 19, we have the record of this event in the history of Israel. What I'd like to do is tell the story—but to build the story around the principles of fear that come right out of the text. If you know anything at all about the setting, you know that what happened was Israel had been freed from Egypt and they had come across the little desert and they were now ready on the threshold to go into the land of Canaan.

(Continued on page 4.)



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CHURCH COUNCIL

(date)=year term expires

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John Lindemuth, vice pres.
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Cheryl Harting, sec. (2021)

David Bytof (2022)

Ron Heilman (2020)

Sandy Kurtz (2021)

Bryan Seyler (2020)

Doug Swoyer (2022)

Pastor Dave Reinwald

Kissinger's Mission Statement

*Where the Bible comes
alive through worship,
prayer, study and
fellowship while serving
others with love and
respect.*

Our Christian Sympathy



Our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Sandy Moyer. Sandy went home to be with our Lord on March 8, 2020. Our prayers for her husband, Richard.

Memorial Gifts

Kissinger's Church received gifts in memory of the following members:

In Memory of Phyllis Trupp from Terri & Lori Price.

In Memory of Sandra Moyer from Rita Graczykk.



Thank You, Heidy!

Earlier this year, Heidy Coldren resigned from church council due to personal reasons. We thank Heidy for her years of service on council at Kissinger's Church.

Jeff Kring was elected to serve as council president for the remainder of the year.

In the Mailbag...

Dear Kissinger's Church,

Thank you so much for the flowers. I appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Jerry Trupp

Dear Kissinger's,

I am sorry that this thank you is a little late, I wanted to express my gratitude for the awesome luncheon that was prepared for my Mom's funeral and again for my mother-in-law's. The Fellowship Team did a great job with preparation and all that needed to be done. It took a load off of our shoulders. We are also thankful for the flowers and Pastor Dave's time to do the funerals.

Most Sincerely,

Troy, Heidy, and Corrine



Chipmunk News



Friends,

As you are reading this, I hope and pray that things have calmed down in our world. A few takeaways from the Coronavirus situation:

1. Jesus predicted 2,000 years ago that before His Second Coming we would see pandemics take place. “There will be great earthquakes, and there will be famines and **plagues** in many lands, and there will be terrifying things and great miraculous signs from heaven.” Luke 21:11
2. That those who don’t know God would fall into panic mode. “Men will faint from fear and anxiety over what is coming upon the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” Luke 21:26
3. Satan will find ways to quickly unite the governments of the world and its citizens to take action, whether for good or for evil. “And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast. They are the ones whose names were not written in the Book of Life that belongs to the Lamb who was slaughtered before the world was made.” Revelation 13:8
4. Believers in Jesus will experience love instead of fear regardless of their circumstances. “There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.” 1 John 4:18

Finally, let us not be “hoarders” as some have become, but let us “share” the love, faith, and hope that comes from the One who is coming back – hopefully soon!



Blessings,
Pastor Dave



No Calendar for the April Issue

As the situation for April is uncertain, we have not included a calendar in this issue. Once it is determined we are able to resume activities, we will send out a calendar of coming events and meetings.

A Message from Church Council

March 19, 2020

The Church Council meeting on Tuesday March 17, was not a St Patrick's Day party. The gut-wrenching decision to suspend public worship and close the doors to outside community activities is among the most difficult decision that needs to be made. Everyone in the room had in their heart to want to stay open and to do business as usual, but our minds were telling us different. In the end, the decision to suspend was in an effort to do our part in helping to keep everyone safe from the Covid-19 threat.

We are currently walking through uncharted territory, but as Pastor Dave and others have been pointing out, the Bible has a lot to tell us about what we are now experiencing.

We made an effort to contact our members and guests and keep everyone informed. I urge each of you to check out the new church website at www.kissingerschurch.org. Sign in at the members area with your contact information. If you need help, contact the office and Wendy will help you or get you in contact with someone who can.

We don't know what the immediate future holds for us, and as the church building is closed for two weeks to public gathering worship, the Church is very active and work needs to be done now more than ever to meet the needs of members and guests, and the community as a well. During this uncertain time, your financial support for Church is as important as ever.

You will hear much more about the importance of small groups. As you explore the website you will notice that Kissinger's has more than 20 active small groups within our church. Stay in contact with your group members and if you hear about someone in need, please contact the office or someone from the Kissinger Kares Team.

Finally, during this time of social distancing and at home isolation, the most important thing that everyone can do is PRAY. I have carried this quote in my wallet for some time:

“PRAY as though everything depends on God; WORK as though everything depends on you. Great Prayer leads to Great Action.”

Church Council

Jeff Kring, Council President

(Continued from page 1.)

This was the land that had been promised to them by God. It is the land that was given to Abraham. It was the land that flowed with milk and honey. It was the Promised Land, the land they had dreamed about through all those years of slavery in Egypt. And now, here they are on the very threshold of entering into Canaan. God allows them to send some spies into the land to check it out, to figure out which was the best way to go into the land and to look at the cities. And so, you know the story. The 12 spies went into the land to spy it out. And as we review the story, we see these principles so very clearly and they remind us that the principles that dominate us when we have the spirit of fear are not any different now than they were back in the times of Joshua and Caleb.

God has not created us to be creatures dominated by fear.

As we study the narrative of this story carefully, we find **five** key principles about the tyranny of fear and the freedom of faith.

1. Fear Disregards God's Plan

For the first thing we realize as we read the story is that fear disregards God's plan. Beginning our reading in verses 19, we read these words: "So we departed from Horeb, and went through all that great and terrible wilderness which you saw on the way to the mountains of the Amorites, as the Lord our God had commanded us. And we came to Kadesh Barnea. And I said to you," Moses is speaking, "You have come to the mountains of the Amorites, which the Lord our God is giving to us. Look, the Lord your God has set the land before you; go up and possess it, as the Lord God of your fathers has spoken to you; do not fear and do not be discouraged."

Here was their warrant for possessing the land. Here was their invitation to go

and take that land which God had promised to them. But they would not go up because of *fear*. Fear took hold of their lives and they couldn't allow themselves to believe that God actually brought them to the place of their inheritance and their blessing. I want to tell you something that fear will do if you let it dominate your life. It will keep you from experiencing God's plan in your life because, you see, we have an inheritance today as well. And our

inheritance is reviewed for us in the words of Paul to Timothy and he says to us there that "God has not given to us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind".

God has not created us to be creatures dominated by fear. He's given us the principle of faith upon which we may live and if we determine to live in fear, we are disregarding God's plan for our life.

The same principle is given by Paul in the book of Romans where we are told, "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father'". Hear me carefully today, the Word of God tells us that his plan for us, his desire for us, is that we live above fear, that *we walk in the power of his love, and that we're not dominated by fear.*

2. Fear Distorts God's Purposes

The second principle in this passage of Scripture is that fear distorts God's purposes. It's interesting to me what can happen to us when fear begins to dominate our life. Everything gets out of perspective. Everything gets into distortion. And it's illustrated here in the story. The ten men who came back from Canaan with their report brought back such a distorted picture of what was there.

We read about this in verses 27 and 28 where the Scripture says: "And you

complained in your tents, and you said, 'Because the Lord hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us. Where can we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our hearts, saying, 'The people are greater and taller than we; the cities are great and fortified up to heaven; moreover, we have seen the sons of the Anakim there'." These ten men came back, and they told the Israelites, "This is a great land, but we can't go in there. There's no way we can go into that land. Why, the land is filled with the Anakim".

That's a word for giants. And they did see some giants but there's no evidence that every person they saw was a giant. How many of you know that fear takes one giant and turns him into the whole population? Have you noticed that? Intimidates you. They saw cities that had great walls and they actually were so impressed by the inhabitants of the land of Canaan that when they came back, they convinced themselves that the reason God had brought them to the threshold of Canaan was because God hated them and he wanted to destroy them. You say, "That is the most irrational thought you could ever have of God," and yet, when fear begins to control your life, you don't think correctly, and rationality goes out the window. Fear distorts your life and the picture of everything.

3. Fear Discourages God's People

If you determine that you will let fear take over in your life, you can be sure you're going to have a distorted picture of life. Fear will take everything that's going on in your life and destroy it. It will take everything that's going on in your life and distort it. And it will discourage everybody you come in contact with. You see, fear isn't just an isolated thing. Fear isn't something that just touches you. Fear touches everybody you touch. Isn't it interesting?

Think about this for a moment. Ten men out of the twelve came back with an evil report and those ten men so determined the destiny of the entire nation of Israel that the course of the nation was changed for the next forty years, just by the testimony of *ten* people. How many of you know that fear is infectious? Somebody said that when they came back from the land of Canaan they not only talked about the giants they saw, they brought one of the giants back with them, the giant of fear. And that giant walked into their camp and destroyed everything that was in the heart of the whole nation. It was almost as if you were in the midst of a huge building packed with people and somebody hollered "Fire," and the whole landscape changes.

Fear distorts God's purposes and it discourages God's people. Fear is more infectious than any disease you can name (*including coronavirus*).

4. Fear Disbelieves God's Promises

Notice in verses 29 to 33 how carefully the wording is given to us: "Then I said to you, 'Do not be terrified, or afraid of them. The Lord your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness where you saw how the Lord your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way that you went until you came unto this place.' Yet, for all of that, you did not believe the Lord your God, who went in the way before you to search out a place for you to pitch your tents, to show you the way you should go, in the fire by night and in the cloud by day".

Listen to me, people. This challenge in the lives of the Israelites wasn't just God's introduction to them. This wasn't God saying, "Oh, let's start from this place and go into the land of promise". God had been with them through the whole experience in the wilderness, through all of their time in

Egypt. And the Bible says he had carried them along as you carry a child, and he had walked them through every experience. He had been with them, he had ministered to them, he had fought their battles, he had provided their food, he'd given them direction by the cloud and by the pillar of fire. And all of that experience is in their heart and here they stand on a challenge to do what God tells them to do and it's like everything God had done for them was gone.

You know what I've been learning as I get older? That while faith is important and it's important to build your faith muscles, sometimes every experience of faith is like starting over. Have you noticed that? It would seem like if you've watched God do some great things for you in the past, you should be able to climb up on that. It'd be really easy to trust him again. But how many of you know sometimes it doesn't work that way? And the Israelites are a certain illustration of that. They decided that in light of all that God had done to demonstrate his goodness in their behalf, that they would not believe his Word

5. Fear Disobeys God's Principles

Notice: "Nevertheless," verse 26, "you would not go up, but you rebelled against the command of the Lord your God". I know this is going to be a little harsh for some of you but let me say it to you again. Here's where the crux of this whole thing rests. Fear is disobedience. Fear is disobeying God. You know, there's a little phrase in the Bible. Somebody said they counted them and there's 365 of them. I don't know if that's true because I haven't counted them. I tried to count them once and I couldn't get to 365 so I don't use this illustration as fact but many, many times in the Bible is this little phrase. You know what the phrase is? "Fear not". Say it out loud. "Fear not".

How many times does God have to say to us, "Fear not," for us to understand that if we fear, we're not doing what God tells us to do? "And to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin". You say, "Well, Pastor Jeremiah, I can't help my fears". Well, we're going to talk about that in a few moments. But you know, it's a very important thing to understand that if God has given us the principle of faith, to deny that principle is to deny God's plan for our life. And fear destroys and disobeys the principles of God. Says here: "Nevertheless you would not go up, but you rebelled against the command of the Lord your God".

Now You Would Ask "How Do I Face My Fears?"

How many of you know that if fear dominates your life, ultimately it destroys everything God wants to do for you? How many people I've known whom God has spoken to, God has given them a direction in their life, he's maybe called them to some ministry, called them to some mission field, called them to do something special, and out of fear they have refused to do it and their whole life becomes just kind of a rambling, meaningless journey. My friends, fear can steal away from us the very thing God wants to give us. Fear is a powerful force. The spirit of fear that dominates a life can keep God from doing what he wants to do in you.



The following are four ways to face our fears:

- 1, Confront Your Fears Honestly**
- 2, Confess Your Fears as Sin**
- 3. Claim God's Promises of Protection**

"What kind of promises are we talking about"? Here are a few to add to your list:

- Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you and He will not leave you nor forsake you".
- Psalm 27:1: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid"?
- Psalm 118: 6: "The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me"?
- Proverbs 3:25-26: "Do not be afraid of sudden terror, nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; for the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught".
- Proverbs 29:25: "The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe".
- Here's my favorite one, Isaiah 41:10. "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you. I will uphold you with My righteous right hand".

**SO DO NOT FEAR,
FOR I AM WITH YOU;
DO NOT BE DISMAYED,
FOR I AM YOUR GOD.
I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU
AND HELP YOU;
I WILL UPHOLD YOU
WITH MY RIGHTEOUS
RIGHT HAND.**

ISAIAH 41:10

©AMEN Designs

4. Cultivate a Closer Relationship with God.

What made the difference for Joshua and Caleb? I want to give you three verses: the first one in Deuteronomy chapter 1. It says: "Except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him and his children I am giving the land on which he walked," now say this out loud with me, "because he wholly followed the Lord," all right? The next one's in the book of Numbers. Notice what it says: "But My servant Caleb, because," here it is, "he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it".

Once again, in the book of Numbers, notice this about Joshua and Caleb. Clear at the end of the verse it says, read it out loud with me: "For they have wholly followed the Lord". The difference between Joshua and Caleb and the other men was the fact, and in one of the passages, it says this: "They were filled up with Almighty God". They had developed a relationship with God that made God the most important thing and the dominating thing in their life. So surely, when they walked into this land that God had promised them and they saw the giants and the high walls and all the terror of the land which the Bible says "devoured its inhabitants," Joshua and Caleb just looked at that and said, "Well, this is no big deal for God. I mean, God, we can do this. God, you've given us this land. We can do it".

The opposite of fear, you see, is not courage. It is not trust. *The opposite of fear is love.* Yes, God is victorious. So are we, when we take the counsel of these wise, wise friends.

Fear not! There are giants in the land, but next to our Lord they're little more than grasshoppers.



The Faces of Kissinger's

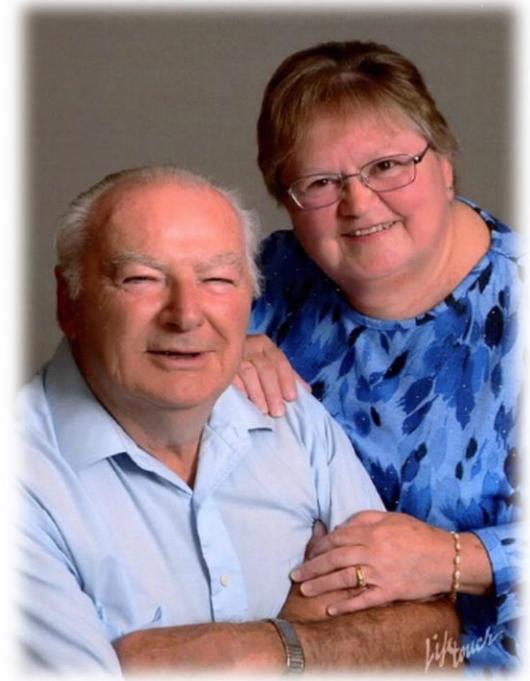
*We continue our column featuring members of Kissinger's.
Each month a different member is featured.*

Hi, my name is **Sandy Kurtz**. I grew up in the city of Reading and am the youngest of nine children (six brothers and two sisters) I have one brother left and he resides in Corpus Christi, Texas. My husband Art grew up in the New Holland area about 1/2 mile from Shady Maple. We have four children: Pamela, Cynthia, Stephen, Jr. and Angie. We reside in Exeter Township and will celebrate our 33rd anniversary on April 25.

I worked at Luden's Candy Factory and when Hershey Chocolate bought Luden's the name became Hershey's Reading Plant. I worked there for 43 1/2 years starting in packing, working my way up to candy maker. My last position there was working in the Lab where I was responsible for making the testing media and sampling all the raw materials so they could be tested by the lab before being used in the different departments. March 31, 2009 was my last working day when Hershey closed the factory. While employed there I was chairperson for the Children's Miracle Network Committee. We did fundraisers and also helped with the phonebank during the Telethon at Hershey. I was also Team Captain for two Relay for Life teams to benefit the American Cancer Society (each team had 15 people). I am proud to say we got an award for top money raising team our third year.

We attended a church in the New Holland area for years, and then Art and I decided to attend a church closer to our home in Exeter. We were invited to come to Kissinger's Church in October 2014 by a friend of ours, Don Gunstone. After the first visit we were hooked and joined on November 23.

After being very active in our former church, we just wanted to attend and worship and then go home. However, one day Pastor Dave paid us a visit and learned that I like to cook. He noticed my collection of cookbooks and the fact that I



Pictured above, Sandy Kurtz and her husband, Art.

had just baked a chocolate cake. He then asked me to join the Fellowship Committee. Now I ask you **who** can say **no** to Pastor Dave?

You may see us at the church a lot and the joke is that we are here so often that we have a bedroom upstairs in the storage area. All joking aside, we are both happy to be part of this warm and welcoming congregation.

I am currently on Church Council, Fellowship Team, A/V Team, Greeters and the Growth and Development Committee. Art and I have our Pa. Child Abuse History Certifications along with Dave Kauffman and Ruth Graul and we babysit while Pastor Dave holds his Parenting Classes.

The saying goes that ***"The Good Lord does not give you more than handle."*** But he sure does keep us busy!



Kissinger's Church is now able to accept your donations and offering at our website. On the Home Page, scroll down to the "Online Giving" located on the toolbar on the left. Follow the instructions and it will be like any online purchase.



For the time being...

Wendy will continue to be in the church office, but the office schedule may vary. If you would like to come to the office, please call first. (Your offerings may also be mailed to the church.)

April Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following friends and members of Kissinger's. Please notify the church office if your name was missed. We do not have complete information on all our members.



Sarah Lugo	2
Betty Graves	3
Janet Yerger	3
Kathy Reifsnyder	4
Barbara Hoffman	5
Keith Hoffman	5
Doug Swoyer	8
Arlene Irwin	10
Lawson Fox	11
Bud Ray	12
Roberta Reuter-Lorenz	13
Jim Neidermyer	14
Gabrielle Faust	15
Patricia Epler	16
Sharon Matthias	16
Bob Titlow	17
April Bytof	22

In the Mailbag...



Dear Kissinger's Church,
Thank you so much for the lowers. I appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,
Jerry Trupp

Dear Kissinger's Family,

I am sorry that this thank you is a little late, I wanted to express my gratitude for the awesome luncheon that was prepare for my mom's funeral and again for my moth-in-law's. The fellowship team did a great job with preparation and all that needed to be done. It took a load off our shoulders. We are also thankful for the flowers and Pastor Dave's time to do the funerals.

Most Sincerely,
Troy, Heidi, and Corrine



Visit Kissinger's Web Site!

www.kissingerschurch.org

If you have not already done so, please sign up at the new church web site with your member information.

Go to the "Members Area", scroll down and input your information. You will be asked to create a log in and password. Once the site administrator accepts your information, you will be free to explore the Members Area.



Recipe of the Month

Chocolate Peanut Butter Bars

Ingredients

Crust:

- 1 package (18.25 ounces) yellow cake mix
- 1 cup smooth peanut butter
- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted
- 2 large eggs

Filling:

- 2 cups (12 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Instructions

1. Place a rack in the center of oven and preheat oven to 350 degrees. Set aside an ungreased 13 by 9-inch metal pan.
2. For the crust, place the cake mix, peanut butter, melted butter, and eggs in a large bowl. Blend with electric mixer on low speed 1 minute. Mixture will be thick. Reserve 1¼ cups for the topping. Turn the remaining crust mixture into the pan, pressing it with your fingertips so it reaches slightly up the sides of the pan. Set aside.
3. For the filling, place the chocolate chips and condensed milk in a large glass bowl and heat in microwave on high power 1 minute. Remove the bowl and stir until the chocolate melts.
4. Stir in the vanilla. Pour the filling over the reserved crust and spread so filling reaches the sides of the pan. Crumble the reserved crust mixture over the top. Place the pan in the oven.
5. Bake the bars until they are golden brown, 30 to 35 minutes. Remove pan from the oven and let cool 30 minutes before slicing.



Let us always meet each other with smile, for the smile is the beginning of love. ~ Mother Teresa

When you are kind to others, it not only changes you, it changes the world. ~ Harold Kushner