



The Cross & Steeple

www.collinsvillebaptistchurch.com



November 2015

From John

Pain and Gain

I didn't cry. But it did hurt.

I had ridden my bicycle from Collinsville across the mountain to Leesburg. The traffic on Highway 68 had picked up as I got about a half mile from my turn. I was staying as far to the right as I could. Several cars slowed a bit and passed me.

Then a good ol' boy in a pick 'em up truck came by fast. And he deliberately bumped me to run me off the road. I know this because as he hit my bike the first time, I yelled at him. He looked back at me and laughed as he hit me again.

I went off the road and lost control landing hard on the gravel on the edge. I landed on my right shoulder. My bike was bent and broken. I lay in the dirt and rocks, scraped and bruised. People stopped to help.

I finally was able to sit up and then stand. The Good Samaritans told me they had called an ambulance. But I am a manly man. Didn't need any ambulance. Hospital? Me? Please. Someone put my bike in the back of their truck and took me home. I tried not to bleed too bad on his seat.

When my wife came in, she suggested I go to the doctor. Nope. I was fine. The bleeding was stopped. But my shoulder stayed really sore.

It came to a head a few days later at a church softball game. I could pitch underhand and swing hard enough to get hits. I just couldn't throw overhand. I was the pitcher, so everything went along fine. Until about the fourth inning. When someone hit a grounder that I had to field. Years of training kicked in. I pounced on the ball and came up throwing hard. Overhand.

I didn't cry. But it did hurt. I got the out, but I didn't see it. I was lying on the ground in excruciating pain, screaming. I looked to see if my arm was at first base with the ball. I decided that maybe I did need to go to the doctor.

At the doctor, the X-ray showed damage that could be dealt with by some therapy that would take about a month. So I found myself lying on a table with a therapist gently lifting my shoulder, checking the motion. He hooked electricity to the shoulder, and then covered it with a huge hot pad. I laid there and read. It was very restful. Not bad at all. The same thing happened the second time.

The third time, I had my book out and went to lie down. The therapist said that we were going to try something a little different. He had me stand up to check motion in the arm. Then he gently lifted it. Before he jerked it up high. I didn't cry. But it did hurt. Then he did it again. And again. It hurt. And I did cry a little. In a manly way.

Finally he let me lie down. No heat today. Turns out that my arm needed a huge ice pack after his therapy.

When the month was up, I bid the therapist good by. Motion was back in my shoulder though I would have to do exercises at home for six more months before it was normal.

The point? My sister-in-law Mary is an artist. She mostly works in paintings but sometimes in clay.

One day I saw her working on a project. Gently kneading the clay, she began to work it into a sculpture. Lots of pauses. Then more kneading. Bob, her husband, watching her, said, "You're beginning to like it, aren't you." She smiled without looking up as she nodded her head yes.

She continued to work on the sculpture. Then she sat back and looked hard at it. Without saying a word, she hit the sculpture with both hands and flattened it. I gasped and jumped a little in disbelief.

Then she began to build again. Gently kneading and shaping the clay.

You know this story. The Potter and the Clay. Jeremiah 18. God sends Jeremiah to watch the potter. And then God tells Jeremiah that God is the potter. And Jeremiah and the Jewish people are the clay. God is God. We are not. He will work the clay the way he wants to work the clay. Even though it may not have looked like it to Jeremiah, God was in charge. Even when he sent Babylon to conquer Israel.

How does that work out for us? We live in a world where there is pain. Some of it is caused by mean people in pick-up trucks who think it is funny to put you in the ditch. They may be pushed by Satan, or they may just be living lives full of sin. It still hurts. Sometimes enough to make you almost cry.

But there are other pains in our lives. Jesus is the Great Physician. He inspects us and sees places where our sins and failures have left hurts and scars. Or places where we need to grow to become what He made us to be. We need His therapy. And it can hurt. That's okay. He is the potter, we are the clay. We have to trust Him to do what is best. Trust and obey.

That was the message to Jeremiah and to the Jews. And it is His message to us. God knows what He is doing. Trust Him. Even when it hurts. We may need to cry a little. But His better day is coming. Trust Him. He is the potter. We are the clay. And that is such good news it can make me cry.

Fall in the Park

Sunday, November 1

1:00 Lunch

2:00 Worship

We are going to Howard's Chapel this year.

Church Will Provide Hamburgers and Hot Dogs and Drinks.

Please bring chips, desserts, fruit, vegetables, soup, etc.

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Sunday, November 1

Turkey Trot

November 7 10-3

Our Men Are Cooking

Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 22

Hosted by First Methodist

Speaker – Don Jones, Pastor,

Vernon Baptist at 6:00

Please bring non-perishable food items to be placed in food boxes.

Please bring names of anyone you think would appreciate a food box.

Community Christmas Service

Sunday, December 6 or 13

Hosted by Harvest Center Church of God of Prophecy

Each Church Will Be Making a Presentation

Lord's Supper and Candlelight Service
Light Refreshments Afterwards

Operation Christmas Child

"What Goes Into the Box...Is Fun"

October Items – Hard Candy

If you elect to pack your own box, it should be returned to church by Sunday morning, November 15 so that we can have prayer with the boxes at the morning service.

If you would like to help assemble and fill shoeboxes, be at the church Sunday, November 8th at 2:00

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

November 22 – January 3

Week of Prayer Nov 29-Dec 6

Church Goal - \$3,500.00

Sunday Mornings in November

November 1 – **All Saints Day**

Patience Waiting for Him

James 5:7-12

November 8 – **Lord's Supper**

Helping a Brother

James 5:19-20

November 15 – **Prayers of Faith**

James 5:13-18

November 22 – **Hanging of the Greens**

Glory of Lebanon Fir

Isaiah 60:13

First Sunday in Advent

November 29 – **Hope**

Glory of Lord Shall Be Revealed

Isaiah 40:5

Signs of Second Coming – Fig Tree

Luke 21:25-36



Community Christmas Tree Lighting

November 26, 2015

5:00

Collinsville Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 12

2:00

Community Christmas Service

Sunday, December 6

Hosted by Harvest Center Church of God of Prophecy



Lue Deen Perkins and family in the loss of her sister Faye Hankins.

News from the Ministry Meeting

The church agreed to:

1. Move another class room wall downstairs and move the prayer room upstairs to the Cornerstone Class.
2. Hire a structural Engineer to make suggestions as to how to move the wall in the fellowship hall.
3. Purchase 30 chairs.
4. Have a piano appraised



Sunday, November 1st
set your clocks back one hour!

~ November 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Flowers Stan & Carol Zulker Birthdays Jessica Shankles Victoria Morales	2	3 Birthdays Daniel Borntrager Curtis Williams Anniversary Jackie & Joann Myers	4 Birthdays Chris De La O W.O.W. 6:00 p.m. Adult Choir 7:00 Children's Choir 6:00	5 Birthdays Deborah Redditt	6	7 Birthdays Andy Myers
8 Lord's Supper Joey & Terri Bobo Birthdays Sarah Jones	9 Birthdays Mickey Jones	10	11 Adult Choir 7:00 Children's and Youth Choirs 6:00 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	12	13	14 Birthdays Johnathan Delacruz
15 Flowers Jo Ann Myers	16 Birthdays Bobbie Jones Anniversary Brad & Belinda Barksdale	17 Birthdays Belinda Barksdale	11 Adult Choir 7:00 Children's and Youth Choirs 6:00 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	12	20	21 Birthdays Shane Barkley
22 Birthdays Kevin Godshall Annette Wardrup Angie Shankles Sam Shankles	23 Birthdays Clyde E. Killian Gracie Foster Anniversary Fred & Carolyn Shankles	24 Birthdays Brooklyn Barksdale Anniversary Clyde & Sandra Killian	25 Birthdays Janet Nelson Anniversary Katrin & Ronald Smith Adult Choir 7:00 Children's and Youth Choirs 6:00 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	26	27	28 Birthdays Joyce McKee Juana Ramirez
29 Birthdays Sheila Smith Jacqui Roberts	30 Birthdays Brittany Rivera	 <p>To Ryan Beene who was elected as a Training Deacon. To Mason McKinney who was baptized in October.</p> <p>We welcome Monica Dennis, who joined last Sunday by letter, into the fellowship of the church and we welcome Carson Dennis who joined by profession of faith and was baptized October 18</p>				

The annual Chili Cook Off was held at Mamie and Nessa's house this year. The chili champion was Shawn Ross. Lue Deen Perkins came in second and Jennifer Wilkins was third. There were multiple protests about the judging, including having to be present to be in the contest at all.

A new award was presented this year to Marty Borntrager... The Big Ragu award for the best spaghetti sauce. After receiving the award he was heard to say "I pass 15 Baptist churches on my way here every Sunday. I could go to any of them and make my own rules!" My, my, my.

The other winners were all those who got to eat from the eight pots of chili, and enjoy being together talking and roasting marshmallows around a nice fire in the cool autumn air.

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Be Thankful for People

This devotional was written by Robin Dugall

I thank my God every time I remember you. —Philippians 1:3

Thanksgiving Sunday is here, and across our country, pastors are preaching sermons pointing out the need for Christ-followers to be thankful people. As a pastor, I've made impassioned pleas for Christ-followers to rise above our culture... to resist the temptation for the holiday season to be simply another opportunity for us to be self-focused and self-indulgent. Thanksgiving isn't just about eating to the brink of explosion; shopping to the brink of bankruptcy; watching television to the brink of insanity. I've tried to make the point that Thanksgiving for a person who loves God can be so much more.

Even so, I discovered in my own life that despite what I've preached, I have missed a crucial element in the process of being a thankful follower of Jesus in my own life. I found that over the years I have been mostly thankful for the THINGS in my life; for food, finances, the house I have lived in, the clothes I have worn, and so on. While there's nothing wrong with being thankful for these things, I have missed the boat on giving thanks for the biggest blessings of God in my life... PEOPLE.

Consider how empty, purposeless, and meaningless our lives would be without relationships. Relationships have shaped who we are and who we are becoming. Without exception, everyone I know has been positively influenced by other people. While it is easy to thank God for the THINGS in our lives, we should remember to be equally thankful for the PEOPLE God has placed in our lives as well!

Let me give you just one example. I am thankful for my Aunt Patty. She had suffered a brain injury when she was a small child severe enough that by the time I was born, she had become mentally disabled. But, when I was a child, she would play games and entertain me for hours. She loved me unconditionally. We would play The Beatles records and pretend to be Paul McCartney and John Lennon. It was her love for music that infected my soul for the rest of my life. I thank God for her!

How about you? Who do you thank God for? Today, take a few moments and thank God for the relationships in your life. Truthfully, it can revolutionize your life. Happy Thanksgiving!

GOING DEEPER:

1. Make a list of the people who have shaped your life. Share the list with your friends and family.
2. How easy is it to just thank God for things in your life? How can you live a lifestyle of thankfulness more consistently?