



Pointing to a Much Better Husband

"Everything works better...not when we want more, but when there's this gratitude of what He has given us. Marriage works best when I am grateful that God gave me my wife!"

*(Matt Chandler—
Philippians Study)*

Some of you are probably confused at the lack of profundity in the quote above. I mean, seriously, is the idea that "marriage works best when I am grateful that God gave me my wife" really all that thoughtful? In Chandler's defense, this was like a five-second sound bite in a four minute promo video for a curriculum that I stumbled upon in my search for our Young Adult class. So I am sure that he did not intend for that short little statement of his to uncomfortably roam around my rather unusually large skull week after week since hearing it. But it certainly has, and the longer it loiters, the more my mind and heart are stung by its humbling and challenging truth.

Now maybe it's the fact that I am, by most standards, a rookie in marriage and not a highly heralded one at that.

But husbands, when you think about your wives, is the idea of "grateful" easy to locate? Do you spend much time thanking God for your wife? Is your marriage characterized by incredible gratitude to God? I find myself too often treating the greatest gifts of God as nothing more than a payment earned and an expectation met. For some reason, I am quite comfortable to think and live as if my loving wife and marriage are somehow "givens" and not gifts of a loving Father. It is amazing how corrupt, selfish and prideful my mind and heart are that I can so easily and quickly be blinded to the goodness of God in my wife.

I thank God for the powerful reminder in Chandler's simple statement. I was so instantly overwhelmed with the wonder of my marriage—that I literally fell to my knees in repentance before I even heard another word from Chandler's mouth. I mean, have you ever thought about your

spouse? Or how incredible marriage is? So many things could be said here about the greatness of marriage as designed by God, but recently, I've been amazed by Paul's words to the Ephesians in chapter 5—"31 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." I love John Piper's comments on this passage, saying,

"Now why is the coming together of a man and woman to form one flesh in marriage a mystery? Paul's answer in verse 32 is this: the marriage union is a mystery because it's deepest meaning has been partially concealed, but is now being openly revealed by the apostle, namely, that marriage is an image of Christ and the

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church. So marriage is like a metaphor or an image or a picture or parable that stands for something more than a man and a woman becoming one flesh. It stands for the relationship between Christ and the church. That's the deepest meaning of marriage. It's meant to be a living drama of how Christ and the church relate to each other."

Isn't that astonishing...your marriage is an image of Christ and His people. A loving husband

and devoted wife are pointing to the Savior's love for His people and their devotion to Him. It's a living and active picture of redemption. When husbands and wives really love one another, are faithful, sacrifice and serve one another, be true to their promises—their marriages give us an idea, a reflection of the eternal relationship of Christ and His bride, the church. So please don't take your husband or wife for granted, don't just consider

your marriage a given, but be amazed at the goodness of God in this gift and be so grateful for them. Pray that God would so work in you and your marriage that others would see your love and be pointed to the perfect love of our Savior.

Pastor Jeff

Pastor Isaac Zull—A PERFECT STORM

Any resemblance to actual people or event is intentional; the names have been omitted to protect the guilty.

The weather dog stared intently at the screen. He was muttering to himself, watching the colorful patterns move and shift as the time projections continued to extend. The self-proclaimed meteorologist intertwined his fingers and then cracked his knuckles; a smile trickled across his face. He had been up for an hour, watching reports, checking his sources, he was sure now, this was the big one. He tried to eat his oatmeal slowly, willing his heart rate back down into the healthy range. There was much to do; dressing quickly he picked up his cap and headed for the garage. He climbed into the cab of his four wheel drive; admiring the array of anti-snow equipment lining one wall of the garage. He hardly ever got to

use it and was longing for an opportunity to prove necessity and justify the purchase to a skeptical spouse. The engine roared to life and he back out of the drive, already planning his attack. He drove through the still dark streets, looking forward eagerly to hot coffee and even hotter gossip.

She pulled into the parking lot groggy, grumpy and wishing the diner did not open so early. Why anyone would get up before 6 to sit and drink coffee and talk about the weather was beyond her. Several of the regulars were already there, sitting at their table, when she rushed in. Cups and pot in hand she went first to the table and apologized for being late. She endured the jibes about early birds and went back to the kitchen to clock in. They were the only ones there, as usual, and she went back a few

minutes later to give warm ups and see if anyone wanted to eat; which they never did. She noticed that Cap (she called him that because he always wore the same old cap) was particularly full of himself this morning. He kept on making veiled references to something big on the horizon, but refused to explain what he was talking about. The other guys at the table were just as determined not to ask as he was not to volunteer information and so they fenced back and forth both groups pretending not to care. Finally, she heard one give in and ask the question. He importantly made the announcement, citing several sources and making his prediction. All she heard was 6 to 10 inches, but that was enough, she began to ponder the implications. On her break she called her mother and her sister and was pleased learn that they had heard nothing about the

A Perfect Storm—continued

upcoming blizzard. When she realized that her information was both rare and valuable she spent the day telling her customers to “Be safe” and to “Stay in, if it gets to bad”. She left work, confident that she had done her part to save the town and avert the disaster.

He had come into the diner on his lunch break. He ordered the Ruben and read the paper as he ate; regretting that this place was always a bit skimpy on the sauerkraut. As he left the waitress told him to be careful and not to go out if it got too bad. He wondered about that and called his wife on the way back to the office. She had heard nothing about any storms but as soon as he hung up began to call around. It was not long before the report was confirmed and she began to panic. She grabbed her keys and the baby and headed for the van, hoping to beat the crowds. She looked up at the grey winter sky, suddenly heavy with foreboding, and then sped to the grocery store. She slid into a spot and hurried inside the already crowded store. She skipped the produce and stopped first at the bread section, even though she knew they already had enough, she bought three move loaves, just to be safe. She next moved to the soup aisle, they could live on canned soup for a month if they had too, and she eagerly

began to shove cans into the cart. She completed her circuit ending at the dairy section. By this time the store was crazy; people with wide eyes and flared nostrils grabbing at jugs of milk. She was horrified to see that they were already out of 1% and so she snatched a gallon of Skim and one of the last 2% in the cooler. Milk in each hand she spun away from the display and ran right into a too young looking fellow with an empty cart and a big smile. She mumbled an apology and then raced to the checkout, hoping to just make it home.

I stood in the Kroger Dairy section and watched the people fly by. I could not help but smile as one lady almost knocked me flat in her eagerness to restock her milk supply. It reminded me of Christmas, all that hustle and bustle, the pre-deadline panic of the hurried shopper. I surveyed the shelves empty and barren, as if a tornado and blown through the store. I wondered how much milk would go bad, how much bread would mold, how long people would eat that soup, and how much snow we would actually get. I could not help but grin, and whistle a bit, as I sauntered through the aisles.

No matter how hard anyone argues, the truth is; what we believe affects what we do. You cannot say that your beliefs and actions are somehow separated

from each other. We continue to sin because we truly believe that there will be no consequences. We refuse to evangelize because we believe that Jesus is not coming back soon and everyone has plenty of time. We spend our time and money on ourselves because we truly believe that we are the most important people in the universe. Let me encourage you to stop trying to act like you think you should, the last thing the church needs is another faker. Instead, seek to know and believe the truth and then live in its light. You will spend your life in response to what you believe so why not believe what is true. You will be judged for sin. Jesus is coming soon. The universe does not revolve around you. This is true, so why not live like it. *But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as He is pure. I John 3:2,3*

What do your actions reveal about your beliefs?

Pastor Isaac

- Same Time Schedule for all ages as last Fall
- “Windows”— 4:30 Marge Hughes - An ongoing grief support group.
- Isaac’s Study—I Corinthians
- “Theology 201”—Pastor Jeff (Sign Up @ Welcome Center!)
 - This study will seek to take an in-depth look into the Christian faith by examining what the whole Bible teaches about all areas of life.
 - *“Most professing Christians don’t know what they believe, and so can neither understand nor defend the Christian faith—much less live it.”* (Chuck Colson)
 - Topics this Spring will include:
 - The Rapture and Millennium
 - New Earth
 - Spiritual Gift
 - Church Government
 - Baptism and Lord’s Supper
 - And more!!
 - Note: These are essentially our Saturday Morning Theology Breakfasts with a New Name, on a New Night at a New Time, but no prior Theology Breakfast experience is needed to join us this Spring!!
- “Praying for the Church as a Church”—Elders and Deacons
 - This elective is a great opportunity to gather with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and pray together!
 - We will be praying for our church, our families, friends and neighbors, our community, our nation, and our world!
 - *“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.”* (Eph. 3:20-21)

I have been strolling down memory lane in the music department these last few weeks. As Dave and I have been busy painting and reorganizing the music room, it’s been incredible to look through decades of music, posters, bulletins, and program notes that I’ve come across. There are choir anthems from 20 years ago that I myself have written notes and directions in. There are handwritten stage arrangements regarding lighting, microphones, chairs and instruments from cantatas dating back into the 1960’s. There are yellowed sheets of paper with scribbled instructions from the audio technician. There are several huge picture albums from groups like the New Life Singers, Belles of Joy Handbell Choir, and the Carpenter’s Tools. It’s been so much fun seeing all of the details and reliving memories of the past.

Psalm 145 verse 4 says that *“One generation will commend Your works to another; they will tell of Your mighty acts.”* This has been proven true to me as I have learned greatly from the previous generation and I’m reminded of so much as I look back. God has used these wonderful people to pass along their knowledge and love for Him and their dedication to service. And the challenge to us today is the same—that when we leave this earth, the next generation will have heard of the greatness of God from us.

As I keep the memories of the past in my heart (and on some of the shelves), I’m making room for the future. I pray that in the short time I’m in this world, God uses me to the fullest extent to further His Kingdom. I pray that my generation will tell the next generation about the works and acts of our Heavenly Father, our Creator. And most of all I pray that one day He will say to me well done, good and faithful servant.

Guiding Light

We at the daycare are excited about a new year. We are working on starting some new programs that will get you involved with the daycare family. Many church members have come and helped over the past year.

In February, we are studying Jesus teachings. The children are learning about the many miracles Jesus performed and how He impacted lives during his travels. We have started chapel time again with Pastor Isaac and Linda. Every Monday is Kids Club.

Since we are in the middle of cold and flu season we could use your help. If you could donate Clorox wipes or disinfectant that would be greatly appreciated! We are trying to keep everything sterilized to keep the sickness down. You can continue to put donations in our tub on the Welcome Center.

Please continue to pray for the children and staff.

Faithfully serving, Julie and the Guiding Light Staff



Women's Lenten Breakfast

<u>Date</u>	<u>Church</u>	
2/20	Mace United Methodist Jody Burks, Speaker Lori Holt, Music	3/27 Freedom Baptist Brad Wilson, Speaker Suzy Gustafson, Music
2/27	1st Church of Nazarene Rev Rich Carty, Speaker Christy Stevens, Music	4/3 St. Bernard Theme: A Heart Like Jesus Song: <i>Since Jesus Came Into My Heart</i>
3/6	Waynetown Christian Cindy Billings, Speaker Crescendos, Music	<i>"I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart." Jeremiah 24:7</i>
3/13	Browns Valley Christian Rev. Tim Lyons, Speaker Carpenter Tools, Music	
3/20	Whiteville Christian Cindy Layne, Speaker Reflections, Music	

Keenagers Soup Lunch February 18th

Come join us for a lunch of soup, salad and desserts, followed by an afternoon of board games. If you haven't been asked to bring soup, please bring a salad or dessert, table service and a soup bowl. It will be fun come see.

AB International Ministries Haiti Response

1. **Steve James** and partners are providing medical care and relief supplies at Christianville at the quake epicenter southwest of Port-au-Prince. Cooperative Baptists are participating in this effort. **Nancy James** at Cap Haitian in the north is maintaining the communication link with Steve and his partners.
2. **Kristy Engel** and our Dominican Baptist partners are in Port-au-Prince with a 75-person team (including 30 medical personnel). The group includes **Ketley and Vital Pierre**, IM missionaries who have come to Haiti from Nicaragua. Kristy is providing administrative oversight of 3 clinics in which the medical team is working. Non-medical staff on this team will distribute food away from the clinics. They are not at this time taking non-medical volunteers.
3. **Madeline Flores** and Dominican partners are providing medical care, shelter and relief supplies to quake victims being brought to the Contreras Hospital in Santo Domingo, DR.
4. Church World Service (CWS) is providing relief supplies in Port Au Prince. \$15,000 of funds from OGHs has helped to pay for the supplies and their shipment from the DR into Haiti.
5. IM is closely coordinating with the Haitian Baptist Convention and the Christian University of Northern (UCNH). IM partners in Haiti are providing medical care and relief supplies at the partially finished hospital at Quartier Morin.
6. Baptist World Aid is referring potential volunteers to IM's volunteer desk staffed by Angela Sudermann for placement opportunities.
7. A preliminary plan for recovery and rebuilding phases, (a three year plan), will be developed in early February. The planning team to be named soon may include **Wayne and Katherine Niles** traveling to Haiti from the D. R. Congo to help assess and develop the plan with our partners on location. **David and Laura Parajon** are also providing consultation based on their hurricane disaster relief work in Nicaragua.
8. Hungarian Baptist Aid, with whom IM has partnered in earlier global disasters, has two personnel in Port-au-Prince as part of the Baptist World Aid Rescue 24 early response team.
9. IMA World Health is providing medicines and medical supplies as part of the international medical relief effort in Haiti. IM is a member agency of IMA World Health. IM asks those wishing to donate medicines to do so through IMA World Health.
10. IMA's president and CEO, Rick Santos, along with two other IMA staff were rescued alive after being trapped for 55 hours under the collapsed Montana Hotel. They survived in an 8 by 5 by 3 feet high cavity created by two concrete beams that held back slabs of rubble.
11. IM is helping to fund a shipment of emergency relief supplies to Haiti provided through Matthew 25 Ministries.
12. IM's Haiti Response Team consists of the following staff: Jose Norat, Herb and Bernice Rogers, Dave Worth, Angela Sudermann. Catherine Nold provides communication staffing. The Team coordinates with ABC World Relief Officer Lisa Rothenberger.
13. **To date IM has released a total of \$65,000 One Great Hour of Sharing funds for Haiti.**
Give for Haiti Relief: www.internationalministries.org Assemble hygiene kits: www.abwministries.org
Contribute medicine through IMA World Health: <http://imaworldhealth.org>
Plan to go in the months ahead. Contact: BIMvolunteers@abc-usa.org

Thank You from the Congregation

The Children's Ministry Team is updating their records and we need your help. Beginning February 7th, you will find an "information" card in the pews asking for the following: Child's name, address, phone, birth date, school grade, parent/guardian, allergies.

If you have children, please take a minute to fill out a card and place it in the offering plate or leave it in the office. This will help us notify you and the children of upcoming events. Thanks for your help.

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your very generous Christmas gift to me. It was very much appreciated, but very unexpected. I thank God for His loving and caring church - YOU! May God bless each of you in a special way throughout 2010.

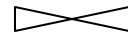
In Christ's Love, Marge Hughes



Beloved Church Family
I want to express my thanks to you for your support, care and love. Throughout Parmer's illness, surgeries, hospital and nursing home stay, home care and home going - you were there. You held us in prayer, called, sent cards & food. You helped with transportation.

Blessed with love gifts, hugs and tender words of greeting, smiles, encouragement, hope and then—sympathy. Yes Parmer left a void—but, our God is sufficient. I will trust in Him. His word brings me comfort. God bless you for helping me and letting God love through you in this pain.

Love and blessings, Kay Moore



This church family has been a wonderful blessing to me. I'm sorry I was not able to be here to receive the Christmas gift on Sunday, December 20th. I would like to let you know how much I appreciate your generosity and kindness.
God Bless, Cathleen Robbins

American Baptist Women —February 2nd



The American Baptist Women's Edna Martin Circle will meet Tuesday, February 2nd, in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am for a workday, weather permitting. We plan to tie a quilt, cut card fronts, roll bandages, etc. Remember to bring your scissors and thimbles! Also, bring any greeting cards (new or used) outdated calendars with pictures, devotionals, cancelled stamps (leaving part of the envelope around the stamp), and

Campbell soup labels. We need the UPC code with the picture of the Campbell kid attached, or if you prefer, bring the entire label and we will trim the part that is accepted.

Our Circle is open to any woman in our church who has a heart for missions, wishes to participate in learning more about the ministry of American Baptist Women, and desires to share in Christian fellowship with other women. Please join with us. For further information you may phone Mary Jane Porter, 362-6687.

Hands & Hearts

Dinner @ 5:30

We will pack the Care Packages for college students and service personnel.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 1 Financial Peace 6:00
(Every Monday thru February)
- 2 Edna Martin Circle 9:30
Hands & Hearts 5:30
- 9 Board of CE 6:30
- 12 CACHE 6:00
- 15 Newsletter Deadline
- 18 Keenagers Soup Lunch
Passion Group - N Kline 7:00
- 21 Annual Business Meeting 6:00
- 22 Assemble Newsletters 9:00
- 25 GLCCM Meeting 5:45

Our Sincere Sympathy and Prayers are
Expressed to the Families in the lost of :

Stephen Dowdy



Week 1:

Ruth Ann Hay
Harold Anderson

Week 2:

Bobbi Grino
Don Nevitt
Jim Deckard

Week 3:

Cheryl Hammond
Cheree Hillenburg

Clark Holt
Lisa Stokes

Week 4:

Cami McMurry
Margaret Plank
Nolan Hodges

Prayer Quilt:

Carol Kershner
Joan Garrard

February Birthdays

Anniversaries

1 Letty Calder	10 Carolyn Christensen	17 Jim Williams
2 Barbara Allen	10 Jody King	18 Camden Pearman
3 Jeff McMurry	Dottie Kincaid	Kadee Vaught
Michele Enlow	Tammy Maxwell	19 Duane Bullock
4 Jeri Wilson	11 Betty White	Wayne Bullock
Marcie Sands	Zoey McCormick	Susie Anderson
5 Kim McMurry	12 James Cullings	Carolyn Stewart
Henry Nevitt	Joyce Pittenger	20 Kathleen Prince
6 Charlotte Lutz	David Kline	21 Michael Kincaid
Janet Padgitt	Dave Henderson	Judy Strickland
Bronna Utterback	Josh Leonard	Angie Watkins
7 Mackenzie Sanders	Mace Leonard	22 Russell White
8 Dion Gobel	13 Steve Cook	23 Kathryn Dain
9 Steve Sowder	14 Jim Lee	25 Marjorie Hughes
Charles Kenny	Chase Gobel	David Booker
Emily Overpeck	16 Shirley Thacker	26 Jan Furr
Shay Lucas	Macie Shirk	29 Tori Swank

10 Terry & Jody King
David & Brenda Lovold
Juan & Liza Cruz
12 Ed & Cheryl Brown
14 Larry & Jan Davis
Jeff & Kim McMurry
15 Fred & Barbara Cook
17 Fred & Georgia Phelps
18 William & Lois Priest
19 Matthias & Donna Swank