

# Community of Christ

## Fairbanks Congregation Happenings

August 3, 2006

The theme for this Sunday is “Restore Me, O God”

Miracle and restoration project in progress  
Expecting a glorious result

### The Inter-Galactic Playground Shepherds

#### Today's Passage / *Psalms 80:1 - 80:7*

1 Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock; you who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth

2 before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. Awaken your might; come and save us.

3 Restore us, O God; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

4 O LORD God Almighty, how long will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

6 You have made us a source of contention to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us.

7 Restore us, O God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

#### □ Reflection

Several days ago, I took my kids to a local playground. It was a beautiful afternoon, and the equipment was loaded with squealing children. Apparently, several parents had left their kids to play alone, because I was one of only two adults at the facility. Simultaneously, our parental instincts kicked in, and within a matter of seconds, we joined the ranks of a lesser-known branch of superheroes: The Inter-Galactic Playground Shepherds. (OK, maybe not “inter-galactic,” but my son thinks that word is cool right now, so I threw it in.)

The battles were noble, of course. One older boy smacked a toddling girl, and the other adult quickly stepped up to defend her. Another child began to chase my son with a long plastic sword. I swiftly intervened. Two nasty villains down! The smell of victory was in the air . . . or maybe that was grape Bubble Yum.

Suddenly, we heard a young, distressed voice crying, “Help! Help!” A boy, about six, had looped his knees into the monkey bar rings, had turned himself upside down, and was completely stuck. He could not get down, and the blood was quickly rushing to his already-purple face. Who would save him?

Inter-Galactic Playground Shepherds to the rescue! Soon, strong arms untangled the young boy's legs, and he was safely restored to his rightful place in the pine bark mulch.

What does this have to do with Psalm 80? Well, although we don't know the exact circumstances surrounding this psalm, it seems that Israel had gotten itself into quite a pinch. Verse 18 hints that they had recklessly turned away from God. And the consequences came, as they always do. And, in this passage, it seems that Israel was dangling helplessly, bleating “Help! Help!” Like a humbled child, Israel cried out in desperation. The Israelites were as lost and vulnerable as children, or as sheep gone astray. They needed leadership, direction and salvation. They needed their shepherd.

Still today, our only hope for salvation is in our shepherd. How many times I find myself dangling from the consequences of a bad decision, crying out for God's strong arms! And despite the fact that I've often run recklessly, rowdily into trouble, he's always come to my rescue.

How grateful we can be for the restoration of our Lord! He hears us! His arms are strong, and he is gracious!

-R.R.

## □ Application

Thankfully, our shepherd is in the business of restoring us when we fail. These words will undoubtedly be music to your ears if you are currently caught in a big mistake. If you are, take a lesson from Israel and cry out to the Lord for help!

But, even if things are going smoothly, temptation can arise for any of us at any time. We constantly need to be reminded that it is better to walk faithfully with the Lord and avoid the painful consequences of rebellion.

As you think about this, please write down the following, "He leads me beside quiet waters"(Ps 23).

Now, close your eyes and try to rewrite this-exactly tracing over the lines you just wrote. How did you do? Did you stay on the lines?

As you live today, consider the fact that when you close your eyes to God's leading, you may miss his quiet waters. Then, ask him to keep your heart yielded today and your desires close to his own.

## □ Daily Prayer

Dear Lord, you love me even though I've wandered. You hear my cries for help and your strong arms of grace restore me time and time again. Even now, restore me, God, as I confess my shortcomings to you. And when I'm tempted today to look for satisfaction in sin, please remind me that your ways are infinitely more desirable. In Jesus' name, Amen.

"In your distress you called and I rescued you."  
-Psalm 81 :7

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When everything seems to go wrong ... just  
P.U.S.H.!

When the job gets you down ... just  
P.U.S.H.!

When people don't react the way you think they should ...  
just P.U.S.H.!

When your money is "gone" and the bills are due ... just  
P.U.S.H.!

When people just don't understand you ... just  
P.U.S.H.!

P= Pray  
U= Until  
S= Something  
H= Happens

## Twelve Step Poem

I took Step One, began to moan  
I can't do this one on my own.  
I took Step Two, began to pray  
Restore me God, please now, today.  
I took Step Three, gave up my will  
Maybe God could love me still.  
I took a Fourth, I looked inside  
Nothing more would I hide.  
And on the Fifth, I said aloud  
I've done some wrong, and I'm not proud.  
I took Step Six, and got prepared  
To lose the defects, I was scared.  
Now I'm at Seven, take them away  
My God, for this I do pray.  
And on Eight, the list was long  
Amends to make for all the wrongs.  
I took Step Nine, put down my pride  
Amends made, I will not hide.  
Step Ten I take, each day I pray  
I make amends along the way.  
And on Eleven I pray to know  
Each day His will, which way to go.  
I take Step Twelve, I'm like a bird  
To others now, I spread the word.....

(Author Anonymous)

Above poems excerpted from- <http://aa-mom.org/journal/mom09.html>

### **Announcements:**

**Sunday Morning Prayer Gathering** - Each Sunday morning for those that wish to be part of the prayer team for our congregation's missionary outreach, we will be meeting at **9:45** for a time of prayer and consideration. This is not a traditional prayer meeting, but instead a focused time to pray for guidance for our growth as witnessing disciples of Christ. This is in preparation for the Witness Community Training that is scheduled for September 23 and 24 and will continue after to support witnessing and community. We will meet in the class room closest to the front of the church. Sue Turner is facilitating this event.

Ragamuffin Gospel class – 10:00 Class will continue discussing Chapter Six- Grazie Signore – Martha Romig will be facilitating

**Collecting School Supplies** for HOT – Please bring school supplies to the church.

**Collecting Items** for a box that will be shipped to a **soldier serving in Iraq** – Please bring donations to the church.

**August 13<sup>th</sup>** – Congregational Business Meeting – Agenda items will include election of congregational officers, discussion regarding renting the church and entering into a lease and a budget resolution to add Outreach International to the budget.

**Aug 20<sup>th</sup>** – Stone Soup – Mission Center event at Fairbanks – 9:00 am- 4:00 pm –

**Sept 10<sup>th</sup>** – Joint service with North Houston at North Houston church

**Sept 15-17<sup>th</sup>**- Mark Scherer – World Church historian will be visiting Fairbanks. A dinner is planned for Friday night, a full day session is planned for Saturday with a free will offering – fund raiser for HOT and on Sunday he will preside over the Sunday School class and give the message during the services. Mark you calendar and plan on attending this special weekend. Mission Center congregations will be invited. Bring a friend and listen and learn about your church history. Details will be provided as they become available.

**Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>**– Witnessing Community seminar - Make plans now to attend this event.

**October 14<sup>th</sup>** – 5<sup>th</sup> annual HOT Golf Tournament – See Carole Caesar or Margie White for details. Mark the date.

**See Mission Center web page for more information**

**See the mission center web page for camp and reunion information**

The following is a schedule of those that are currently scheduled to deliver the message for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. This is not the “official list” and is for informational purposes only. Please refer to the worship schedule in the fellowship hall for changes.

August 6<sup>th</sup>- John Reimer

August 13<sup>th</sup> – Gary Chatburn – Testimony Service

August 20<sup>th</sup> – Mission Center Stone Soup

August 27<sup>th</sup> – Doug White

September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ruth Chatburn

September 10<sup>th</sup> – Joint Service at North Houston

September 17<sup>th</sup>- Carole and Leo Caesar – Church Historian visiting

September 24<sup>th</sup> – Gary Chatburn

The nursery schedule cannot be posted in the family center for January through March 2006. Please contact Andrea if you are interested in volunteering in the nursery this quarter.

Nursery Schedule:

**We need volunteers for the nursery. Please see Andrea Watson.**

Please review the prayer list in the Sunday bulletin. If you have added someone to the list please update Leo Caesar with any new information and current status of the prayer concern. Please contact Leo Caesar if you wish to add/remove someone from the list.

**Calendar & Mission Center News:**

The Coastal Bend Mission Center is proud to announce that the Coastal Bend web site is up and running! You can visit the site at [www.coastalbendmc.org](http://www.coastalbendmc.org)

I will be sending out periodic e-mails letting everyone know what is “HAPPENING” at Fairbanks. Please let me know if your e-mail or other contact information changes. Mark your calendars and **participate, enjoy, reach out!!!!!!**I pray that everyone have a safe and happy week.

*Martha Romig*

