



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

July 2018

The Pursuit of Happiness

Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord. ~ Psalms 144

Through the 1990's I worked at a brokerage firm, headquartered far away from the noise of Wall Street nestled in the small town of Great Falls, Montana.

Actually, it was a booming little brokerage growing as fast as the markets that were riding the wave of the post-Reagan years and the economic boom of Reaganomics.

Working with our stock analysts it seemed we had our thumb on the pulse of the entire world. Anything that affected the markets anywhere on the planet, we knew about it.

Besides data feeds, market reports and analytic tools, we had televisions in every office tuned into the new CNBC 24-7 financial channel.

One morning a commercial came on that caught my attention with a member of the Forbes family promoting a financial service. His pitch was like a politician—loud, finger pointing at the camera as he spewed his pitch: *"You can die rich and tax free!"*

My mind paused. Why does he think that is appealing? All I heard was, *"You can die . . ."*. The people around me however thought it made good sense, leaving me feeling kind of cut off like I was experiencing a 'Twilight Zone' moment, which in a way I was. Why should the offer to die rich and tax free make me happy?

Not long after that an issue of *Forbes* magazine came out. The September 1992 issue was their 75th anniversary issue. I would expect the cover headline to say something like "The Top 10 Companies of the Decade!", or "The World's Top Billionaires", or something similar, something 'financial-ish'.

But it was nothing like that. The magazine cover was so NON-financial it was odd. It had a picture of

people from all walks of life—doctors, construction workers, farmers, businessmen, elderly. And the title was an attempt to answer why most people feel like there is a black cloud over their lives, it said, *"Why we feel so bad"*. Inside the cover they turned it into a question—*"Why do we feel so bad when we have it so good?"*

Excellent question! Experiences like this over the years in the investment world made it clear to me that money absolutely did not make people truly happy. In fact, wealth seemed to cause more anxiety and worry than it did peace of mind and contentment.

In Psalms there is a great description of the results from long hours and hard work in the pursuit and possession of wealth — *"the bread of sorrows"*.

"It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep."

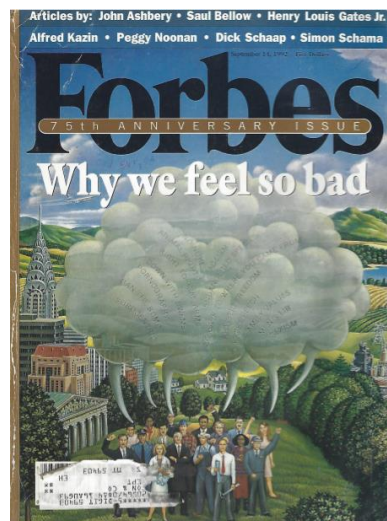
~ Psalms 127:2

And many centuries later, the Apostle Paul describes it the same.

"For the love of money [covetousness] is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred

from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." ~ 1 Timothy 6:10

Why would it be any different today? In this blessed nation of ours, where the common man enjoys the



most unique and unusual freedoms that few on earth have ever tasted, we have a governing document that specifically addresses our happiness citing our “Creator” as the source.

“We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness”

So this brings us to the question: How do you exercise your right to pursue happiness? Are you aware of what *truly* makes you happy? Where is *your* happiness?

Careful with this—your FIRST answer may be way off target! Real happiness has depth and may not be where we think it is.

*“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that **ye cannot do the things that ye would.**” ~ Galatians 5:17*

You cannot do the things that you want to do? What does he mean by that? Ironically, our happiness actually lies in denying our will, our wants, our desires; and is found more in sacrifice, self-denial and giving . . . not getting. (And in our heart of hearts we know this.)

With that truth in the forefront of our mind (instead of some dark backroom in our mind where the flesh keeps it) we can more deeply understand the Savior’s words when he said, *“It is more blessed [it is a happier experience] to give than to receive.”* ~ Acts 20:35

“More blessed.” The word ‘*ble*ss’ has its roots in a somewhat odd etymology. It comes from the word ‘*blood*’ as in a blood sacrifice, i.e., “*hallowed with blood.*” It also has a line to the word ‘*bliss*’ as in a perfect peaceful existence. So in every sense, *ble*ss = happy. Yielding our will to God’s is the key to true happiness.

Even in our prayers we are directed to ask for God’s help to do His will instead of ours. God wants us to have happiness. *“Our Father, Who art in Heaven. Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy*

will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.”

~ Luke 11:2

Not ‘our will’ that is so often far from God’s. Our will has no part in Heaven.

Again, in the Garden, our Savior prayed for *what He wanted*, but in that same prayer, He yielded His request to the will of our Father.

*And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless **not as I will, but as thou wilt.*** ~ Matthew 26:39

Nowhere else but in the blessed place of submission to God’s will can we find perfect happiness, a blessed tranquility, a blissful eternity.

It is difficult for our carnal mind to accept that our fleshy desires bring nothing but unhappiness. But our spiritual mind knows very well the peace of yielding to God’s Divine Will.

*Happy is he that condemns not himself **in that thing which HE allowed.*** ~ Romans 14:22

We control our happiness. We direct our lives into delight or depression. According to these words the Romans are told that they have control over being happy or not. Happiness is a choice. We need to realize this and CHOOSE happiness—by not condemning ourselves by what we think, say or do.

Even the World has a popular saying about this—that ‘everything we really need to know we learned in kindergarten.’ So quoting one of the great pre-school philosophers, Jiminy Cricket, instructing his young student Pinocchio on how to be happy: *“Always let your conscience be your guide!”*

Good advice to children. And good advice to us. Here is how the blessed Apostle Paul said it as he testified before governors and rulers:

*“[I] have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. **And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void to offence toward God, and toward men.**”* ~ Acts 24:14-15



Chariton

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. (no evening services)

Location: 15th & Roland, Chariton, Iowa

For information call: Albert Schreck (641) 535-2381 or Brian Schreck (641) 535-2931

- Delores VanEgdom and her grandson, John Wayne Smead, traveled to Wisconsin for the graduation of their grandson and cousin, Riley VanEgdom.
- Visitors this month were Bruce and Sue Schreck, Tyler Schreck, John and Teresa Groves, Brett, Chantelle and Aquila Jackson, Gerry, Ashley and Aella Fenton and Ethan Schreck.

July Birthdays

- ★ 10-John Smead

July Anniversaries

- None

Dean Avenue

Meeting times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa / P.O. Box 57398, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327

For information call: John McNeece (515) 263-9428

- John Lee was here the week of June 10th. He spoke on Sunday and Monday through Friday evenings. His common theme was *"God Is Rooting For Us To Succeed"*.
Thank you to everyone from surrounding congregations for their support.
- Earl Allen was ill with walking pneumonia but has recovered now.
- Don James received a stent for one blockage in his heart. He has another blockage which is being treated with medication.
- Greg Head has a bone chip on his ankle and will be wearing a boot for a while.
- We had some travelers this month:
- Greg and Linda Head and Ron and Karma Sharp vacationed in Colorado.

- Skip and Risa Schamel vacationed in the Ozarks.
- Visitors: Tom Warren, Bill, Bryan and Tally Charlier, Aiden and Preston Boozell, Kirsten Done, Jayme Boozell, Grayson Plummer, Fabian and Sara Puente, Wanda Nickol, Adrian Gonzales, Paige Southwick, Kamryn Aswegan, and Madden Sharp.

July Birthdays

- ★ 02 Kamryn Aswegan
- ★ 13 Amy Prenosil
- ★ 16 Jessica Chapman
- ★ 22 Cathy James 29 Frank Meek

July Anniversaries

- None

Fairview

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 1001 S. 22nd St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632

For information call: Richard Negley (712)542-3728 or Marvin Negley (712)542-2792

- We were blessed with several guest this month:
 - John, Deb & Maddy Negley from Coralville, IA
 - Darrel & Linda Barnes from Springfield, MO
 - Sarah & Sydney Dennis from Des Moines, IA
 - Josh & Jessica Goazalez from Shenandoah, IA
 - Manami Murakamiharaguchi from Japan.
- Traveling with Marvin & Jean Negley were Manami Murakamiharaguchi and her husband

from Japan sight seeing on their way to Seattle, WA. and spending time with Mark, Em, and Charlotte Negley.

July Birthdays

- ★ Justin Head - July 17
- ★ Elsie Negley - July 29

Elsie will be 107

July Anniversaries

- None

Martensdale

Meeting Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 10985 44th Lane, Prole, Iowa (1.5 miles east of Martensdale, Iowa on Hwy. 92)

For information call: Duane Proudfit (515) 961-4470 or Mike Penick (515) 681-0279

- Thank you to everyone who attended our Ladies Day Meeting and thank you to all the ladies who contributed food.
We felt blessed and uplifted by everyone who attended, the messages brought and the food and fellowship shared.
Also a special thanks to the Pleasant Hill Congregation for allowing us to use your basement!!
- Paula and Kimberly Parker worshipped with us while visiting Tiffany Parker.
- Jess and Callie Barringer worshipped with us while in the area.
- Ayden Twaddell has moved to the area and has been worshipping with us. We've been happy to have him with us.
- Drew and Courtney Teghtmeyer enjoyed a cruise.

- Pam Deckler spent some time with her daughter in Nebraska.
- Dick and Phyllis Bown kept their grandchildren, Savannah and Ian, for a week while Roger and Melissa Bown spent a week in Hawaii.
- Kyle and Stephanie Stevens and their children worshipped with us while visiting Stephanie's family.
- Kirk and Bethany Ford and Jordan Bown also attended services while home visiting their families.

July Birthdays

- ★ July 3 -- Alena Ingle
- ★ July 5 -- Rodney Ingle
- ★ July 30 -- Tanner George

July Birthdays

- None

Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa

Website: pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org

For information call: Bob Flack (515) 262-7329, Lowell Hermon (515) 989-0727, Mike Warner (515) 967-4529

- Mike and Shirley Warner's son Steve just finished a 5 day chemo treatment. He will have a cat scan on Wednesday and the goes to see Sarcoma specialist in Iowa City on Thursday for a comparison on beginning cat scan and new one and see how tumors have done. Please continue to pray for the family.
- Thanks to everyone that brought their children, grandchildren and neighbors/ friends to VBS. We had a good bunch of kids.
- Don and Wanda Burkman celebrated there 60th wedding anniversary on June 3rd, 2018. Our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren presented us with an amazing celebration at the Courtyard by Marriott in Ankeny. This touched our hearts.
We are so very thankful to God and our family for all the many blessing's we have received all through the years. Thank you so much to our Brothers and Sisters in Christ, family, friends and neighbors for all the many good wishes, cards, attendance and gifts. It was a joyful time for everyone.
- Dave, Joyce, Randy Theresa, Kinnick and Ryan Ingle and family attended the memorial for Joyce's brother, Daryl Whanger in Mo.
- Joyce would like to thank you all who sent cards and expressed sympathy for the death of her brother. Roy Whanger has also enjoyed the cards. Roy Whanger's address is in care of Ron Whanger, 2395 Southern Hills, Mexico, Mo 65265

- Nora Lee Ingle attended two funeral's in the Kansas City area. One for Katherine Nickel and for Milford Morris (Mark's dad).
- Margaret Franklin, Diamond and Dominique will be moving in July to Iowa City area. We are going to miss them.
- Alex and Ryane Needham and family were in Kansas City area visiting with Alex's family.
- Pam Sorensen was also visiting in Kansas City area with her niece Erica and family.
- Jane Morgan had knee replacement.
- Carly Felice had a procedure done.

July Birthdays

- ★ 3 Jack Conner
- ★ 4 Clay Felice
- ★ 5 Michele Zinnel
- ★ 8 Julene Pappan
- ★ 12 Steve Thompson
- ★ 14 Mike Warner
- ★ 16 Cindy Brady
- ★ 29 Diamond Blackman
- ★ 29 Kelly George
- ★ 30 Ginger Hermon

July Anniversaries

- ★ 3 Jason and Theresa Brady
- ★ 18 Miles and Kelsey Wood
- ★ 24 Ryan and Jamie Ingle
- ★ 28 Bob and Marge Flack

Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m.
Location: 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.
Website: vandaliacoc.com
For information call: Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 966-2537

- We are happy to report that we are back in the auditorium, after several months of undergoing the expansion project.
- Joy and Casady Cummings visited family in Missouri.
- Trent and Leah Fiorentin vacationed in Colorado.
- Our annual June meeting was well attended and we appreciate all who participated..

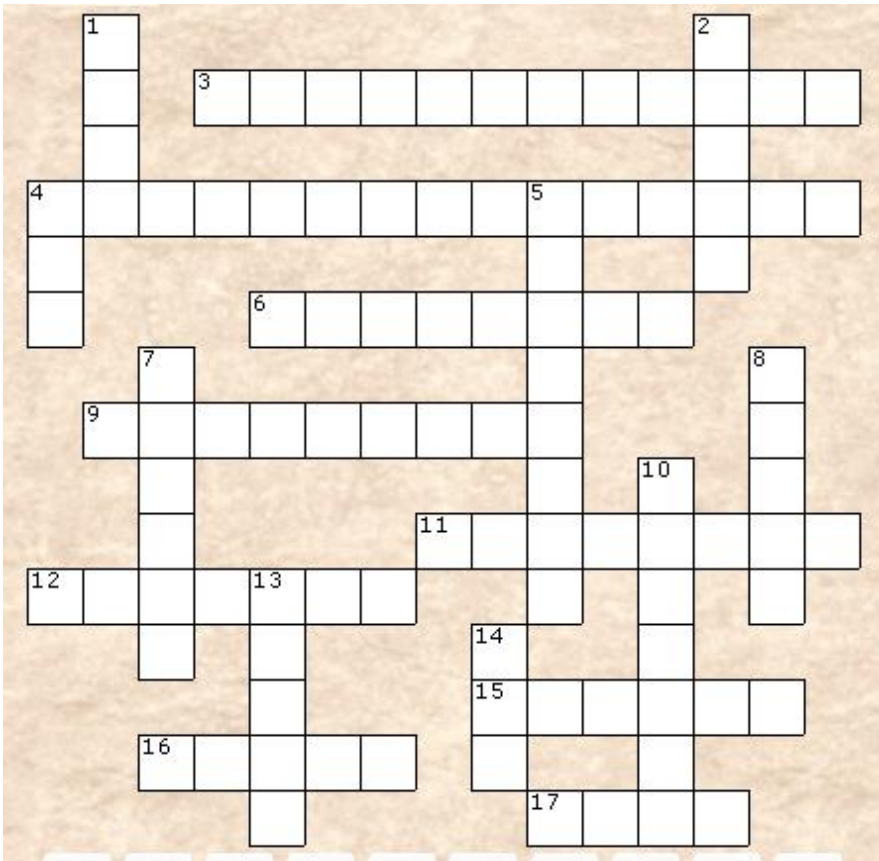
July Birthdays

- ★ 1 Sarah Clark
- ★ 1 Tonya Guthrie
- ★ 24 Drew Cummins
- ★ 25 Tyrell Klein
- ★ 26 Robert Cummings

July Anniversaries

- ★ 10 Matt & Sarah Clark
- ★ 14 Bruce & Kelsey Fiorentin

Crossword Puzzle: Exodus



ACROSS

- 3 Destination of Israelites (2 words)
- 4 Rules that God gave to Moses (2 words)
- 6 Wife of Moses
- 9 Death of all Egyptian ____ (final plague)
- 11 Jewish holiday with origin in Exodus
- 12 Egyptian ruler
- 15 Waters parted by God (2 words)
- 16 Second plague
- 17 God called Moses from a burning ____

- 4 Number of plagues on Egypt
- 5 Ninth plague
- 7 Sister of Moses
- 8 A land flowing with milk and ____
- 10 Eighth plague
- 13 Brother of Moses
- 14 ____ of the Covenant

DOWN

- 1 Pillar of ____ (nighttime guide)
- 2 Food supplied by God