

July 2020



gema Baptist Church

A circle of believers with Christ at the center.

BEACON

"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

True Freedom

We see a lot of turmoil these days. For those of you who are in my age bracket or older, you've probably noticed something different about the demonstrations and messages now as compared to previous times like the 1960's. Some similarities exist to be sure but one thing that strikes me now is the confusion as to what is being protested.

Part of the confusion is that many different things are being protested and or advocated simultaneously. Some things are in contradiction to other things. Many groups are seeking advantage of their agendas in the midst of all this. Making sense of it all is a huge challenge. I hope to help you by giving you some foundational information with which to evaluate whatever is being promoted.

One of the pieces of foundational information is the biblical definition and purposes of true freedom. I can think of no better time to address this than on the weekend when we celebrate our nation's independence.

Later in the month, Dr. Pat is scheduled to be with us and then I will begin a new series called Holy Demolition of Popular Pretensions. The title is based on 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. We have many things in our culture that the enemy uses to keep us from experiencing God. I want to demolish some of the popular ones so that we can truly experience God.

I do not know at the time of this writing what the order of messages later on in the series will be. Please pray for me as I work to bring you helpful information related to our times. Thank you!

In His Joy,

Pastor Rodney



JULY SERMON SCHEDULE

- 5 "True Freedom" Galatians 5
- 12 Dr. Pat from *News Service 2000*
- 19 "Our Weapons in the Ultimate Struggle" 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
Holy Demolition of Popular Pretensions Series
- 26 "Do Any Lives Matter?
Why or Why Not?"



YOUTH MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

about baby steps. I remember when all three of my boys started to walk. Gage was 9 months old and we were so excited! We would hold onto his little hands and walk with him all over the house until finally he could do it himself. I also remember the first time Aidan walked, or more correctly ran. He was a little older, probably closer to 12 months. He had mastered rolling and crawling and was in no hurry to walk, but once he figured it out there was no going back. Connor, on the other hand, was pushed down and told not to walk. Just kidding. (Well sort of.) With Connor, we had knowledge we did not have with Gage. We knew that once Connor started walking, there would be no stopping him either. We had experience as parents now and knew walking meant getting into more trouble! It was also a reality that once he started walking we no longer had a baby in the house, we had a toddler! I was not eager for that stage. Although we did not know that Connor would be our last baby, we did know, from experience, that walking changed everything! Our grandson seems to be following in his dad's footsteps and has started walking behind push toys at 9 months. He shows no fear as he tries everything for the first time, from first foods to trying out the kiddie pool. I told Gage and Bethany to push him down, but his walking is inevitable. No matter how much we want him to stay our little baby, he will not. He will grow and he will walk. Right now, his little personality and the encouragement of first-time parents (and grandparents) only pushes him to walk earlier! I've watched my own three boys and now my grandson learn to walk regardless of what those around him want. I believe it shows God's ingenuity to put this insurmountable drive into each of us so that it looks natural, the need to grow and change.

I also believe God has indwelled in us a need to learn. (Which cause us to grow and change!) Just as our physical bodies naturally progress as we mature, so does our mind. However, we have become masters in suppressing that desire to learn or outright ignoring it. Unfortunately, our society sometimes tries to squash the desire to learn some subjects, as I, myself experienced. But I believe it is in us and that it can be ignited! Proverbs 25:2 says, "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings." We do not inherently know everything. And truthfully, we never will, but we should desire to learn more. More about God, more about Jesus, more about the Bible, more about His people, more about how to look at our world with a Christian lens, and more about how to answer tough questions, especially from our kids.

So how do we do that? With baby steps. You cannot learn apologetics in one day or even read through the Bible in a week, but you can do them in small, incremental baby steps. I personally believe we should all start with the Bible. It is amazing how many times you can read the same parts of scripture but learn something new. If you have never read through the entire Bible, I strongly encourage you to do it. If you can, try to do it in 90 days! This is difficult, I agree. And this challenge works best when you do it with someone. That way you can talk about what you have read, keep each other accountable and then celebrate together when you complete it. There is something unique about making it through the 90-day challenge. There are reading plans online and they even printed a specific Bible for this purpose. But if you cannot do the 90-day challenge find someone and another plan that works for you. They have plans integrated on every Bible application out there, so I know you can do it!

You cannot accomplish anything you do not start. It is like having a messy house and looking at someone with a tidy house and wondering how they do it. Well the tidy person will tell you they do not wait until there is a mess to clean, they clean up in small ways throughout the day every day. It is the same with learning. You can't take in ALL the information you need or want at once, you just have to take in a little piece of it every day, day after day...baby steps!

...until next time, Rebecca Anderson, OBC Youth Director



"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 1:7

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:29-30

July OBC Meetings & Ministries

WORSHIP TEAM

- 5 Eric Stolhammer
- 12 Sam and Aimee Blomberg
- 19 Nathan & Kaarin Lind family
- 26 Harmoni Jesunas

ORGANIST

- Ellen
- Karen
- Anja
- Jody

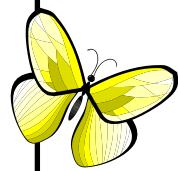


AUDIO TECH - Nick Blomberg

VISUAL TECH - Jane Smugala

MEETINGS

Missions Committee	Thursday, 2nd	7:00 p.m.
CE Board	Tuesday, 7th	7:00 p.m.
Trustee Board	Monday, 13th	7:00 p.m.
Deacon Board	Monday, 27th	7:00 p.m.



*Now the Lord is the Spirit,
and where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom.*

2 Corinthians 3:17

*So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
John 8:36*

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.
You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free.
But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh;
rather, serve one another humbly in love.*

*For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping
this one command:*

"Love your neighbor as yourself."
Galatians 5:1a, 13-14

*In Him and through faith in Him
we may approach God with freedom and confidence.*
Ephesians 3:12

*But now that you have been set free from sin
and have become slaves of God,
the fruit you get leads to sanctification
and its end, eternal life.*

Romans 6:22



"We are all faced with a series of great opportunities
brilliantly disguised as impossible situations."
- Chuck Swindoll

"Let God's promises shine on your problems."
- Corrie ten Boom

"The greater your knowledge of the
goodness and grace of God on your life,
the more likely you are to praise Him in the storm."
- Matt Chandler

Combined Sunday School

We are now offering a Sunday
School Class for all ages
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
taught by Patrick Daniels

*"The LORD your God is in your midst,
a Mighty One who will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness;
He will quiet you by His love;
He will exult over you
with loud singing."*

Zephaniah 3:17



July Birthdays

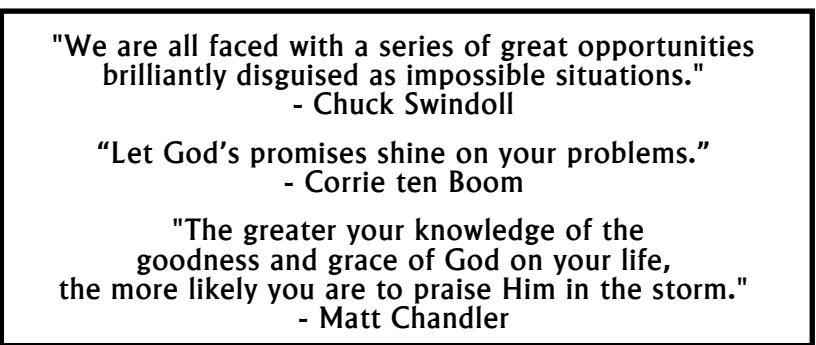


- 1 Dave Blomberg, Norma Swan
- 2 Jon Carlson, Cole Mann, Pastor Rodney Price, Teagan Mariette
- 3 Jason Davis, Gene Grapa, Denae Walcisak
- 4 Toni Bruner, Susan Freiboth
- 5 Hugh Hueckman
- 6 Samantha Polzin, Jeremy Lukes, Gage Anderson
- 7 Dave Elleman, Reese Isaacson, Pamela Thomas
- 8 Jean Conrad, Audrey Hueckman
- 9 Nick Schubring, Hunter Gedde
- 10 Jacob Donahoe, Katherine Bauer, Megan Winter
- 11 Nick Adams, Arely Espinoza
- 13 Bill Leick, Jerry Shoup
- 14 Levi Haskins, Sarah Karluk
- 15 August Donahoe, Dave Mattson, Jim Bauer
- 16 Levi Rhody, Jennifer Sarkkinen, Kristina Erdman, Jordanna Storvik
- 19 Karen Blomberg, Nathan VanCamp, Sabrina Gustafson
- 20 Kay Marschke
- 21 Logan Sarkkinen, Mitch Retzlaff
- 22 Dale Haskins, Bradley Johnson, Ryder Jones, Cole Retzlaff
- 23 Lonnie Carlson
- 25 Dan Swan
- 26 James Carlson, Angela Kislewski, Rick Strombom, Aarik Lind
- 27 Lena Berg
- 29 Breanna Swan
- 30 Jimmy Oleson, Molly Adams
- 31 Karis Wear, Fletcher Walcisak, Sidney Reynolds



Happy Birthday!

Jesus can turn ...
a MESS into a MESSAGE
a TEST into a TESTIMONY
a TRIAL into a TRIUMPH!



OGEMA BAPTIST CHURCH

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Please contact us if:

- You or someone in your family (on our mailing list) has an address change
- You no longer want to be on our Beacon mailing list
- You would rather receive your Beacon by email

Email:

info@ogemabaptistchurch.org

Combined Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service - 10:15 a.m.

or online at www.ogemabaptistchurch.org



Wednesday Adult Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Missionary Spotlight

At our annual church business meeting in May, OBC membership voted to support 3 additional missions for this year only, and Brad Brunsch is one of those. He and his family live in Pennsylvania and work with Lemuel Ministries in Northern Haiti.

"Brad Brunsch and his family serve as ambassadors for Lemuel, a nonprofit organization located in the remote area of Northern Haiti. The current global pandemic has caused turmoil in both Haiti and Pennsylvania, the current home of the Brunsch family. Over the past two years the Brunsch's have been trying to transition from living and working in Haiti to serving Haiti from the US. This has not been an easy transition. Things have not gone as planned and with lack of support, Brad needs to find a job. There is much uncertainty and stress involved in all the decisions that need to be made. Please pray for wisdom and for strength as they make these and other decisions regarding their future. Also, with everything else that is currently happening in the US and Haiti, please pray that God's will is evident in every decision.

Covid-19 has increased the level of difficulty for Lemuel, in Haiti, to provide for their people and the people of the surrounding community. Food prices have increased and the lack of rain for growing food continues to be a problem. However, ministry never stops, not even for a pandemic! They just have to get creative. Lemuel has had the opportunity to provide work-for-food programs and deepen their relationships with their staff and those who live close. Lemuel, the ONLY employer on the Plateau, has 60 employees who continue to work despite no salary.

Praise: As of June 18, the water holes on the Plateau are full due to recent rain!"



the BRUNSCHE family

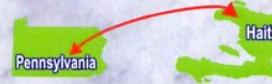
BRAD & DANYEL

SHAYNE, BRAYDEN, CARSYN, DAYNE, RYEN

OLAD
Organisation Lemuel d'Aides aux Démunis

Supporting Lemuel Ministries in Northern Haiti

www.lemuelministries.org



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