

November 2017



 Omega 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

What Were You Thinking?

Adopting a 2 Year Old at YOUR Age? What Were You Thinking?

This question came to me from a friend of mine recently and I think it's a legitimate question. Let me begin by saying what we were not thinking.

We were not looking to adopt when we became foster parents. We obviously were physically able to have children and the four daughters we had, filled our lives quite well. But with two daughters in their 20's and mostly living elsewhere we thought we had enough time that we could provide a temporary home to a few kids who needed one.

To make a long story a little shorter, when we were called about a premature infant who needed to be placed in a foster home, I wanted to say, “No.” We already had two foster kids and three was really more than we could do well. I told Melinda, “I don't want to say, 'Yes' but I really don't want to say, 'No.' I don't want to stand before God someday and have him ask me why I didn't take in a little one when we had the opportunity to do so. That's not a conversation I want to have because every reason I could give is ultimately a selfish one.” So on June 30, 2015, Aelita came into our home at nine days old and 4 pounds 4 ounces. We found out later that because we requested a maximum of two foster kids, every other foster parent in the county was called before we were and they were all unable to take her at that time!

As the Human Services process unfolded over almost two years, it finally developed that Aelita would be available for adoption. Then the theoretical question of adopting her became a real question. In the absence of any biological family members who were both willing and able to adopt her, we were next in line since she had been with us so long. If we were unable or unwilling to adopt her, then she would have been

placed as soon as possible with a family who wanted to adopt her.

Are we able to provide for her? It is our opinion that we are likely to be able to parent her at least until she is an adult. Both sides of our family have pretty long life spans on average and we don't have any debilitating health problems yet. Also, all four of our existing daughters expressed a willingness to do whatever they need to for her if something should happen to Melinda and me. So we had to decide if we were willing to adopt her.

Having four girls already we know a little bit about the demands of parenting. Were we ready to sign up for another 16 years minimum when we were just a few years from becoming empty nesters? In the end, the question that really determined our answer was, “What is best for Aelita?” In light of the following facts it became clear that it would very likely be best for her if we adopted her.

She has been with us since nine days old. She and her sisters have bonded well. For her to be placed with a new family that she does not know would be unnecessarily disruptive to her. Sometimes a child does have to be placed with a new family but it is not the optimum situation. Aelita is familiar with you as a church family. I don't know of a better church family that a kid could have.

I expect that having Aelita will be inconvenient, demanding, exhausting, wonderful and awesome; just like our first four daughters. “Children are a gift from God.” Psalm 127:3. We are blessed. That's what I was thinking.

In His Joy,
Pastor Rodney





YOUTH MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

about a lot really. So much, in fact, that's it hard to pull one coherent thought of focus for an article. The one consistent thought intermingled with everything happening in my life is also showing up in everything I'm doing, experiencing, reading and hearing. That word is....LOVE. The Greeks had four different words for love: Phileo (brotherly love or love brought out by the qualities of someone else), Agape (God's love, true unconditional love or the noblest word for love), Storgé (feeling of love due to natural affection towards husband, wife, child, pets [protective love]) and Eros (sexual or romantic love). This word has shown up in sermons, our Deeper study, my bible study, my preparations for youth group lessons, my book study with friends, my book study for the trip to Haiti, and even on my Daily Bread app. It must be important if it's showing up in all aspects of my life.

In 1 John 4:7-12 (NIV), John writes the word love 13 times. In Galatians 5:22 (NIV), love is the first fruit of the Spirit listed. To live by the Spirit, according to verses earlier in that chapter (13-14), we are to serve one another, humbly, in love and love our neighbors as our selves. Even Jesus indicated, when asked what the greatest commandment was, said "Love." Are you starting to think that love is important? I sure am, but if you're not convinced there are many other verses for you to look up and I encourage you to check it out.

So what keeps us from loving like Jesus said to love or like the many verses in the Bible command us to do? Sin would be the obvious answer, but two other things have been brought to my attention lately. In fact, a few weeks ago there was a meme on Facebook. (A meme is a picture with words on it that is spread rapidly throughout social media.) It said, "What is the greatest problem facing America?" People had all sorts of comments, from hurricanes and floods, to cancer and President Trump. My first thought was hate. Hate is what's wrong with the world. Then in a bible study on Galatians we talked about the power of the Holy Spirit and how without the Spirit we can't love. We are made of flesh and are ruled by our fleshly desires from the day of our birth. Once we receive Christ as our Savior, the Holy Spirit takes up residence, but it doesn't take away the desires of the flesh. It becomes a battle. And the only way to win is to let the Holy Spirit take control. So I change my answer from hate to: America has a "lack of the Holy Spirit" problem. We can't expect non-believers to be able to love like God commands. Without the Holy Spirit there is no way to do it!! It's impossible.

This brought me to my next attention getting thought. Why do believers still have this problem? Why do we struggle to love? I think the answer might be pride. What else prevents us from letting the Holy Spirit take control? I don't know about you, but I like control. I like making decisions and making sure things go a specific way. I like being independent and not needing anyone for support. I don't like to be hurt and I don't like to be taken advantage of. It is hard to love someone that rubs me the wrong way or disagrees with me. It's hard to love another Christian who posts opinions or pictures on social media that aren't in sync with my beliefs. It is hard to love...period! Yet, we are commanded to love the way Christ loves us. So how do we do it? How do we let the Holy Spirit pour out love through us on to others in every situation? I wish I had an easy answer for you. I don't. But I can tell you that the more I learn, the more I dig into scripture, participate in bible study, work with a mentor, open myself to the Holy Spirit and choose love, when I'd rather choose something else, I seem a little closer to understanding. And my guess is that you can too.

...until next time, Rebecca Anderson



"Let them give thanks to the LORD for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for mankind, for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things." Psalm 107:8-9

"God has promised to supply all our needs. What we don't have now, we don't need now." —Elizabeth Elliot

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"God says to give thanks in everything. That doesn't mean you need to give thanks FOR everything. You don't need to give thanks FOR that bad day. Or FOR that bad relationship. Or being passed over at work. Financial hardship. Whatever it is – you are not to give thanks FOR the difficulties, but rather IN the difficulties. That is a very important distinction, and one I think we often miss. Giving thanks IN everything shows a heart of faith that God is bigger than the difficulties and that He can use them, if you approach Him with the right heart and spirit, for your good and His glory." —Tony Evans

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:6-7

"When we choose thankful prayer over wallowing in anxiety & worry, we are demonstrating an unwavering trust in God." —Priscilla Shirer
"If there was ever a secret for unleashing God's powerful peace in a situation, it's developing a heart of true thanksgiving." —Lysa Terkeurst

"I will give thanks to You, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonderful deeds." Psalm 9:1
"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." —William Ward



Ogema Baptist Church Quarterly Business Meeting
Sunday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.



"His Amazing Grace"
Community Ecumenical Choir Concert
Sunday, November 5, 3:00 p.m.

REVIVE
Night of Worship & Prayer
Friday, November 10, 7:00 p.m.

"All the nations You have made will come and worship before You, Lord; they will bring glory to Your name. For You are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God."

preview songs at <http://bit.ly/obcrevive>

Couples' Fun Night
Saturday, November 12, 7:00 p.m.
Strengthen Your Marriage!
Have Fun!



Thanksgiving Service
Wednesday, November 22, 7:00 p.m.



"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

His love endures forever."

Psalm 136:1

(Everyone is invited! No regularly scheduled Wed. programs this night.)

November Birthdays

- 1 Stef Jones, Michelle Mariette
- 3 Craig Scheithauer
- 4 Heather Reissner
- 6 Bonnie Blomberg,
Michaela Blomberg, James Rhody
- 8 Skip Ploof
- 9 Taylor Meier
- 10 Sharon Scott
- 11 Nathan Belan, Brian Johnson, Elsie Hawkins,
Sam Cattanach
- 12 Harmoni Jesunas, Statia Isaacson
- 13 Edith Nelson, Stan Carlson
- 15 Michael Mattson
- 16 Tim Zook
- 17 Julie Gedde, George Gedde
- 18 Jerold Nelson
- 19 Mark Belan
- 22 Chrissy Wentzel
- 23 Jon Blomberg, Jon Carlson
- 24 Mallory Nelson
- 25 Riley Blomberg
- 26 Dawn Erickson, Zach Ulrich, Brett Blomberg,
Finley Blomberg
- 28 Cindy Erickson, Nataya Nussberger
- 29 Jordan Blomberg, Amy Deshotels, Kolson Wear,
Brett Hueckman, Ed Ulrich, Tessa Ulrich
- 30 Connie Kraegenbrink, Mallory Hueckman,
Justine Jast, Eddie Recob



Please contact us if:

- You or someone in your family 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

OGEMA BAPTIST CHURCH

P.O. BOX 556, OGEMA, WI 54459 715-767-5157 www.ogemabaptistchurch.org

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OGEMA, WI
54459
PERMIT NO. 5



Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am
Sunday Worship - 10:15 am
Wednesday Student & Ladies' Ministries - 6:30 pm
Wednesday Adult Prayer Meeting - 7:00 pm



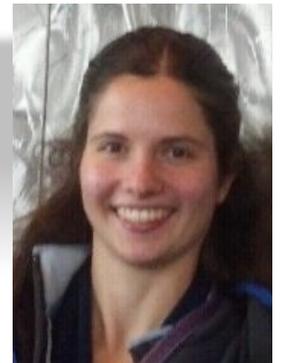
Whatever your age or stage in life,
YOU are WELCOME here!

*“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before Him with joyful songs...
For the Lord is good and His love
endures forever, His faithfulness
continues through all generations.”*
Psalm 100

Missionary Spotlight Myra Grapa

Nov. 10—Dec. 20, 2017

Uganda, Africa



Please be in prayer throughout November and December as Myra Grapa shares God’s love and the Gospel in Uganda, Africa! Here is an excerpt from her Mission letter.

“The main goal of my trip is to share God’s love for all people, and His plan for their lives and how believing in Jesus Christ as their Savior can bring them new life and the ability to overcome evil. ... I plan to: lead Bible studies for troubled youth; teach workshops on communication, personal finances, business interpersonal skills, and cross-cultural training in an effort to help individuals bridge the unemployment gap; visit and encourage local churches; engage street children (who are often rejected by the community) in group play; serve a hot meal at a school for orphans; help repair soil/grass huts for elderly or disabled community members; prepare basic needs baskets (flour, match box, sugar, bread, soap, etc.) to give to forgotten elderly and/or widows and visit with them.”

We can be a part of this outreach by praying and/or donating funds. Myra has specifically asked us to pray for “God’s guidance and direction, the Gospel to spread and Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of many, patience & understanding between me & local people.” Funds are needed for school supplies for workshops, soccer balls, children’s & Bible study supplies, repair materials, hot meal for children, basic needs items. Her fund raising goal is \$850. Keep updated on Myra’s ministry on her blog: myugandatales.blogspot.com