

October 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

Not an Easy Invitation

Jesus invites people to follow him. It is an invitation that most will reject (Matthew 7:13-14). Those who accept his invitation will be misunderstood (1 Peter 4:1-4) and persecuted (2 Timothy 3:12). It is not an easy invitation to accept and certainly not an easy one to live.

The cost of following Jesus is huge according to Jesus (Matthew 10:34-39, John 12:23-25). Following him will undoubtedly lead you to sacrificial living and maybe even to physical death.

The benefits of following Jesus, however, are also huge. Jesus says that only his followers gain the assurance that others lack, experience the freedom that others forfeit and escape the death that others suffer (John 8:31-59). No one else can provide what Jesus does. He has conquered sin and death and hell and has forgiveness and eternal life to offer.

Saying “No” to Jesus’ invitation to follow him has costs as well. The costs of following are huge but the costs of NOT following are even bigger. The first Sunday in October we will consider what those costs are with the hope that we will be motivated to persevere in following Jesus.

Also in October we will look at some of the very practical aspects of how Jesus says we are to follow him. We will see what he says about stuff. Hint; it’s very helpful and brings freedom. We will see what he says about how we are to show

that we are his followers. Then we will see that Jesus uses himself as the example or model of what this looks like in very clear and compelling ways. On the last Sunday of October we see what Jesus says about how we can live an eternally fruitful life.

The older I get, the more I am convinced that Jesus is not only Savior and Lord and Christ, he is also the wisest and smartest person who ever lived. He truly knows the best way for us to live because his eternal nature and perspective make him the best possible guide through this temporary life. I hope you will take the opportunity to consider with us what Jesus says about following him. It is not an easy invitation, but it’s worth it.

In His Joy,

Pastor Rodney

OCTOBER SERMON SCHEDULE

- 1 The Costs of Non-Discipleship
- 8 Going for Broke
- 15 Closing the Credibility Gap
- 22 Loving Like Jesus
- 29 How to Live an Eternally Fruitful Life



Nursery and Children’s Church are provided during Sunday morning Worship.



YOUTH MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

Have you ever caught a glimpse of God's sense of humor? No, I'm not talking about Balaam's talking donkey or the narwhal, although those are good examples. I'm talking about the way you plan the trajectory of your life or speak your plans out loud only to have God show you that's not quite what He has in mind. Earlier this summer while on vacation in Marquette, Michigan, I was having a great day riding bikes and exploring Lake Superior with my husband. At the same time I was having a bad day, sweating from the humidity and just feeling yuck. Sitting on the rocks taking in the view, I told Rick there was no way I was going to be able to take the youth group kids on a mission trip anywhere really difficult. Especially outside of the U.S!! I couldn't even handle the humidity of that day or keep up walking or riding a bike the way I should be able to. It was just too difficult and uncomfortable, plus the thought scared me. I said, out loud, that I should probably just give up looking for next year's trip. I wasn't having any luck finding one anyway.

After returning home I went to a CE Board meeting. I was still highly discouraged with my inability to find a possible mission trip. I had spoken to numerous people from all over the U.S. and still had no solid leads. At the meeting we started with prayer requests. I wasn't going to say anything, but I have a hard time keeping my mouth shut when I'm overly discouraged, so I mentioned that I was struggling and asked for prayer. I asked for direction from God to guide us where He wanted us to go. At this point I was thinking He was telling me to go nowhere. One of the board members said her son knew someone from Rhinelander who was working in Haiti. (She didn't know this at the time, but my heart stopped. Haiti!! I've had a heart for Haiti for 5 years and wanted to go there, but didn't think I could. I'll have to tell that story at another time.) Later that night she sent me the email address for the person her son knew. I figured I'd send an email, explain who I was, what I was looking for and hope that maybe this would amount to something in a year or two.

I then wrote the August Beacon article about how fear stops us from doing things. At the end of the article I wrote, "The one thing I've started to learn is that you will never walk on water if you stay in the boat. At the end of your life, don't you want to be able to say, 'I stepped out of the boat?'" While writing that, I wanted to scream yes!! I want to step out of the boat! But what's my boat? And then Haiti called.

Yes, Haiti! Not the whole country, just Brad from Rhinelander who now lives there. Brad called while I was on my way home from Rhinelander. (See sense of humor!!) Connor was with me and I don't normally answer calls from numbers I don't recognize, but since I was in Rick's car with the hands free calling I did. The voice on the other end said, "Hi, this is Brad. I'm calling from Haiti." And then there was dead silence. I looked at Connor and he looked at me with, what I assume, was the same expression I had. "Did you just say Haiti?" I asked. There was a chuckle on the other end and Brad said, "I was waiting for that to sink in." I talked with Brad for an hour. We exchanged questions and to make a long story short, I'm going to Haiti. I realized over the course of that conversation that my boat is the good ole U.S.A. I'm comfortable here with my running water and air conditioning. And while my fear is real, it's the fear of the unknown and the only way to make it known is to go. I remembered my conversation with Rick in Marquette and chuckled. God has a sense of humor. Not only did I say I wasn't going to ever do something like this, I wrote an article about fear and stepping out on the waves in faith and trusting God. Looks like I get my chance and no matter what happens, I'm stepping out of the boat!! It feels great to take this step of faith. I realize there are more challenges to come, but the most difficult part has been accepting the guidance God has given so far. And now I'm starting to put my faith in action by taking steps to move forward with the planning process. So, what I've learned so far in this "water walking" adventure is to faithfully look for the challenges God provides for your instruction and His glory.

So now I have a favor to ask. The organization that myself, Rick and Kaarin will be going to from November 4th to November 10th is called Lemuel Ministries. Since I don't have enough room to explain all of who they are here, please feel free to visit their website. <http://www.lemuelministries.org/>. We are going on what Brad and I termed a "Vision Trip." I can't possibly get students ready for a trip that I myself can't comprehend. So I'm asking for prayer. Prayer for us as we prepare to go, Lemuel and Brad as they continue with their mission, and a small community of Haitians that I haven't met yet. Also, please pray for safety and open hearts as we go to learn. As with most of Haiti, the people there have many needs. One of them is medical, which is one of the reasons I asked Rick to go with me. We will be taking some supplies with us in November and while I'm asking you to pray about this trip, I'm also asking for donations. I have placed a blue tote by my office door for you to drop off items, or you can leave them in the kitchen with my name on it. Anything you can help us bring would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

...until next time.

Rebecca Anderson

- List of Needed Items:
- DIAL soap
- Lumbar Brace or other types of braces
- Non-Stick Gauze
- Medical tape

- Eye wash
- Allergy eye drops
- Saline eye Drops
- Ibuprofen
- Acetaminophen
- Anti-Itch cream

- Anti-fungal cream
- Anti-bacterial cream
- Earwax drops
- Dayquil
- Nyquil

Fall Rally 2017 **GEORGE MOSS**

The Fall Rally is BACK!!

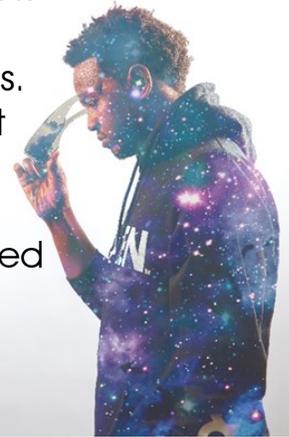
Please join us on **Wednesday, October 25th** at **7:00 p.m.**

as George Moss shares his message and music with us.

George is a Christian Hip Hop artist with a heart for making Disciples.

Please go to www.georgemossmusic.com to discover more about him and his mission and to listen to his music.

George will be in the Rib Lake and Prentice School Districts during the day on October 25th. Please pray for him and everyone involved in this event. Also pray for the outreach that this event could have in all our communities and the message that will be brought to our schools.



Couples' Fun Night

Friday, October 13, 7:00 p.m.

Strengthen Your Marriage!

Have Fun!



Family Night at OBC

Friday, October 20, 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to bring the whole family for an evening of basketball fun!

Please bring a snack food to share.

Small Groups at OBC, Growing Together!

Please consider joining us!

Sundays, 9:00 a.m., Classes for All Ages

Youth: Toddlers through High School Students
Studying "Explore the Bible!"

Adults: 3 choices - Young adults "Bridge,"

Couples "Love & Respect," Adults all ages "Called to Serve"

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Something for everyone!

Youth: Kingdom Quest, Spot 68, Ground Zero
Programs for youth of all ages, grades 4K—12

Ladies: Learn & Grow, "When God Doesn't Fix It"

Adults: Prayer Meeting (begins at 7:00 p.m.)

Monday Ladies' Bible Studies

9:00-11:30 a.m., Galatians & Ephesians, "Free from Bondage God's Way"

6:30-8:30 p.m., 1 Peter, "Living Hope in Christ"

October Birthdays



- 3 Aidan Anderson, Lawson Carlson
- 4 Cody Blomberg
- 5 Layne Blomberg, Amy Espinoza
- 6 Joelle Scheithauer, Julia Pearson, Pat Ulrich
- 7 Pat Grom, Elisabeth Karlik
- 8 Sally Fawley, Hunter Swan, Missy Altschwager
- 10 James Byrd, Karl Lind
- 11 Bruce Johnson, Leila Heikkinen
- 14 Madelyn Blomberg, Samuel Blomberg
- 15 Darrell Freiboth, Shirley Hueckman, Rachel Donahoe
- 16 Marcia VanCamp
- 18 LuAnn Winter
- 19 Micah Blomberg
- 20 Jake Anderson, Steve Blomberg
- 21 Arnie Blomberg, Nicole Schaer, Nick Erickson Jr., Ryan Reissner
- 22 Seth Hueckman
- 23 Victor Blomberg
- 24 Jodi McIlhany
- 26 Mollie Anderson
- 27 Marni Belan, Kaelyn Isaacson
- 28 Shirley Root, Hazel Nelson
- 29 Emily Daniels
- 30 Jeff Jast, Coralie Recob
- 31 Marlene Blomberg, Brian Kraegenbrink, Betty Selander



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

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

*“May the God of hope fill you with
all joy and peace as you trust in Him,
so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
Romans 15:13*

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



Missionary Spotlight John & Lori DeCleene

Converge Mobilization Specialists



“John and Lori DeCleene, successful missionaries to the Philippines for more than 30 years, are now working with Converge International Ministries as Monthly Deployment Advisors. In this new role, they advise and coach newly appointed Converge missionaries during the period when appointees complete their many requirements to reach their field of service.

Converge International Ministries is seeking to double its missionary force in the next decade. Many will serve among unreached and unengaged people groups that do not have a church or a gospel witness. John & Lori provide personalized monthly guidance and support as coaches, mentors and encouragers to help appointees reach the field faster—so more people can meet, know and follow Jesus.”

Pray that more men and women hear God's call to serve unreached, unengaged people groups.

Pray for full funding for John and Lori's strategic ministry.

Pray God will lead more missionaries to serve with Converge.

Mobilizing missionaries to reach the field faster and healthier.

START. STRENGTHEN. SEND.

*Information from Converge International Ministries. Learn more at johnd@converge.org.