

Family Heritage Developer

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"God forbid that I should forsake the inheritance of my Fathers" -- 1 Kings 21:3



November 10, 2015

2015 - A Year in Review

Why We Home School Our Kids

By Superintendent, Gary L. Cox

Senior Class Verse of 2015

"For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's." (Rom 14:8 KJV)

The greatest impact a Christian may have upon his fellow man is a resolute conscience toward God and an equally resolute respect to his fellow man's conscience. Christian conscience resists conformity to the world like an anvil resists the mighty blows of the blacksmith: the Christian is unchanged, while the world is reshaped by the skill of the Sovereign Craftsman working out all things after the counsel of His own Will. This conscionable resistance to self-will is the forge that reshapes the world in conformity to faith-filled holiness. "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." (Rom. 14:5b)

Raising kids with a conscience towards God is the highest goal of the Christian parent. The truly Christian conscience neither lives nor dies unto himself, but to the Lord; and he gives full respect to every other man's conscience to do the same - tolerating even the very opposite conviction in the confidence that God can correct His own servants. "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord!" (Rom. 12:19) The correction of wrongdoing is left to the Lord, while the Christian heaps on deliberate acts of kindness. Emerging Christian adults look like sober servants who live out Romans 12 as a living sacrifice without hypocrisy, holy and acceptable unto God.

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and

acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

"Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12)



THIS PAST YEAR, WCFS GRADUATED 21 STUDENTS IN OUR MAIN PROGRAM AND 17 PARTICIPATED IN THE GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON MAY 30, 2015. WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE TESTIMONIES OF OUR GRADUATES WHO PARTICIPATED! CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2015!!!



Graduates pictured from left to right: Kaleb Wagner, Mary Coffelt, James Lewis, Isobel Tate, Jacob McCurdy, Lydia Emenike, Philip Waldhauser, Leah Bohnett, Joshua Bloom, Jordan Bomberger, Amy McNamara, Alex Bruns, Josiah Cox, Holly Stancker, Benjamin Wold, Haley Baumgartner & Luke McNamara



Haley Baumgartner

As I reflect back over my many years with WCFS, I remember feeling as though graduation day would never come. Now, as I look back, the years have actually flown by and I'm realizing how much I am going to miss this time.

I would first like to thank the LORD for always remaining

faithful throughout every season of my life and for allowing me to overcome obstacles through Him. I would also like to thank the WCFS staff for everything they have done throughout all my years of schooling. Thank you to my family, friends and pastors and a special thank you to my sister for always being there, for never failing to make me laugh and for being my best friend.

Words cannot express how thankful I am for my parents. They have sacrificed so much for me to be standing here today. Mom, Dad—the love you pour out on Brie and me daily is something I admire most about you. Thank you for nurturing me in the ways of the LORD and supporting me through it all.

A scripture the LORD has laid on my heart is Philippians 4:6-7: "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 I want to recognize WCFS for all their support in helping me and teaching me to never give up and when I fall to always get back up.

and your minds in Christ Jesus." A few years back, I struggled with anxiety and this scripture really helped me overcome it.

The next chapter in my life is unsure, but I must remember that the LORD has a plan for me. He will not let me fall and He will cover me with His overwhelming peace.

Moving into the future, I will choose to walk in faith and hope. I plan on attending Regent University in the fall, but I'm also leaving the door open for God to direct me in the way He has for me.



Joshua Bloom

Hey y'all my name is Joshua Bloom; First I want to thank God publicly for pulling me through the last twelve educational years of my life.

Mom and Dad, Thank You so much; you have both given above and beyond your obligation. You've truly laid down your lives for me, thank you for being living examples of Jesus's love.

To the rest of you family members, I can't thank all y'all enough for your steady support, the fun time, and your spiritual guidance.

Friends and classmates thank you for what each or you have done encouraging me and making my life fun. My plans for the future are sketchy, but, Lord willing, for now I will be working this summer at Quarter Branch Farm in Loudoun County as well as looking into community college with NOVA for this fall.

Please pray for me that God will show me what His plans for my life are and that I would rest in His strength instead of my own.

I would like to share 2 Corinthians 8:9 which says, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."



Leah Bohnett

I thank God for giving me the family that I have, for supporting me and especially my parents for teaching me school and life lessons. One of my favorite verses is Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and

that he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him." I am considering college, but as of this point, I have no definite future plans.



Jordan Bomberger

Hello, my name is Jordan Bomberger, and I, like everyone else cannot believe that graduation is already here. It has been a challenge, but God never left me through any of it. As Deuteronomy 31: 6 says, "Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God,

He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." I would like to thank Him for teaching me many things through the years and allowing me to improve in many areas of my life. He has protected me and shown great mercy and grace upon me even in times when I did not deserve it. All I can do is praise Him with all my heart.

I am extremely grateful to have been blessed with amazing parents who sacrificed much, giving their time and love for me. Mom, I thank you for being very patient with me, even when I was very demanding of your time. I thank you so much for the love and care you have showered on me, and the Godly example you have set before me. Dad, you have taught me so much over the years especially on how to be a good worker. You have taught me how to behave and think on the job even when circumstances could make me stray from what I really should be doing. Most importantly I thank you for your love, and for teaching me a great deal about God's word, and how to grow closer to Him.

I am also extremely grateful for my siblings, Elizabeth, Rachel, and Rebekah. I thank you guys for being there for

me. We shared many adventures and times together, times that I will never forget for the rest of my life. I love and wish you all the best.

As for the future I am a bit uncertain. God knows what I will be doing in the future and He has plans for me. I hope to continue working with my dad for another 2-3 years prior to going to a trade school where the big career decisions will be made clear.



Alex Bruns

Yay! I finally finished my high school years. First of all I would like to thank God for saving me from hell at a young age, and for helping me with all my schooling from kindergarten until now. Next I would like to thank my wonderful parents who have helped me tremendously throughout my

life and school. Also, I thank my two amazing sisters that have loved me and helped me throughout my life. I would like to thank my five grandparents who have spent lots of time with me and supporting me. I want to thank Nana and Pap Pap for taking me to my writing class for several years. I want to thank Pop Pop Joe for helping me with my home improvement work study. Last of all I want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Cox, Mr. Brad, Nana, Mrs. Donna, and Mrs. Wyand for all of your support throughout my school years at workshops, home visits during the years of attending Walkersville Christian Family School. Throughout the course of my life, I have been thanking God for giving us the Bible. My favorite Bible verse that has kept me going in school is Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'" Since I know that God already knows what my future plans are, I can let God show me my next steps in my life.

Some life changing things I've learned through homeschooling are: I have learned how to take care of my little brother and how to help my family. I have also learned how to preach the gospel. For my future plans, I hope to attend CCBC in Essex, in the fall of 2015 doing General studies and then I hope to transfer to a Bible college because I want to be in the ministry for Christ as some sort of pastor.



Mary Coffelt

Frodo's journey through Middle Earth started early 3018 and ended late 3021 that's three years. So it took me longer to get a high school education than it took kingdoms to overthrow Sauron.

Hello, my name is Mary Coffelt and, to much of my own disbelief, I am a part of the graduating class of 2015. There are a lot of people I would like to thank who helped me through my high school years. The only way I feel I can really do justice to how much these people have helped me, is to translate it into a series of Lord of the Rings metaphors. For those of you who actually have lives and therefore do not know everything about Lord of the Rings, any time I mention a Ring or any kind of evil thing I am referring to my high school experience. Anytime I say an overly complicated name that is one of the good guys.

First I'd like to thank my brother Tim. You were my Gandalf. When the Ring was confusing me with a horrid evil it called "math", you helped me to decipher the nonsensical patterns of numbers like it was magic. You also seemed to disappear for extended periods of time for absolutely no reason.

Caleb and Chloe, you two were Gimli and Legolas to me. Yes there was some fighting. There was also laughing. There was just a lot of talking in general. But like Legolas and Gimli, you two helped keep things lively, you supported me when I felt like I'd stumbled into the mines of Moria, and you guys helped me put my problems in perspective. You helped me see there were things worse than being a senior, being a freshman.

Becky, Hannah, and Joanna, I tried really hard but I couldn't find any Lord of the Rings character that fully justifies how you've helped me. Hannah and Becky, you two were like Fred and George to me. You helped me grow up and keep all my mischief managed. Joanna, you were more like Ginny to me. You were tough but fair and a barrel of laughs.

Dad, you were like Thorin Oakenshield to me. You led me through the tough areas and prepared me to take on dragons. Sadly the "dragon" I've defeated won't make you insanely wealthy.

Mom, you were my Sam Gamgee. When the weight of the ring was too much for me, you carried me up Mount Doom until I could walk again. Although you did seem to vanish when the giant man-eating spider came along, but I can completely understand.

I also want to thank Brad and all the WCFS staff. You guys are like Tom Bombadil. In the same way that he doesn't get enough credit, neither do you guys. If you guys weren't around none of us would have made it out of the Shire.

But most of all I want to thank God. I would not be standing here right now if it wasn't for him. He has rescued me like Beregon, aided me like Aragorn and instructed me like Gandalf.

I don't have any current college plans; I have so far been relying on God for direction. I really can't thank anyone enough. I feel very blessed, honored and even privileged to be here. It certainly has been some journey through middle earth.



Josiah Cox

Good afternoon friends and family, my name is Josiah Cox. By God's great mercy and grace, and the patient, loving care and instruction of my parents, I stand here today. Of the few milestones in one's life, this is definitely one of the greatest. I am so thankful to my Savior Jesus Christ for being my

strength when I had none, to persevere to the end, and also for giving me the greatest parents a man could ask for. Mom, Dad, if there ever was a Medal of Honor for parents, you would be the first to receive it. Thank you for never giving up on me even though I gave you many an occasion to do so. Besides all of my schooling and academics, you instilled in me the greatest gift of all, the love and trust of our Savior. The Bible was the greatest textbook anyone could teach from for, "Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face."- Ronald Reagan. Brothers and Sisters thank you for all your patience and kindness to me I will never forget our awesome times together. Life without you would have been lifeless.

I thank God for my outstanding grandparents. Through my ups and downs you watched me, encouraged me, and yes disciplined me when I really needed it, but most of all loved me with Christ's unconditional love.

Thank you to all my friends for being awesome peers and encouraging me on, giving me that healthy competition that I so greatly enjoyed and needed. Your encouragement and faithfulness is inspiring.

I have accepted an appointment to the Virginia Military Institute and will report to post this August. If God wills, I would like to study Electrical and Computer Engineering with a minor in Arabic.

Through these twelve years of school, I have been encouraged through God's word in the book of Isaiah chapter forty verses twenty-eight through thirty one, "Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint."

I would like to leave the class of 2016 and all other classes to follow with this quote from Winston Churchill: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts."

"Never, never, never give up."

Remember this is not the end, this is only the beginning.



Lydia Emenike

Hello, my name is Lydia Emenike, It seems just like yesterday, I entered into High school, extremely happy to leave middle school behind, which were the hardest school days of my life, literally.

I want to begin this speech by acknowledging first grade. It doesn't feel like so long ago,

when my Mother sat down with me and opened my first grader math book. And I had to sit there and count two elephants plus another two elephants, and sum up the answer. As a first grader, math was something enjoyable. The math books where fun, colorful and easy. But, the more my grades went higher the more the colors started leaving the pages, and so came the challenge. When I started writing this speech, the one person that immediately jumped to my mind was Mrs. Becky Wyand. She had a great impact in my elementary years. I remember the days I went to the WCFS office with my parents and got tested with her in elementary subjects. She had this binder on the table and she would flip the pages. I especially remember the tough time I had with reading; as I usually memorized the sentences read to me, before it was my turn to read, that I learned pretty easily. But thanks for her advice to my parents, I love reading a lot now, and can do so flawlessly and by myself. Thank you Mrs. Becky.

I would like to acknowledge God and thank Him for carrying me through my fun years in elementary. And helping me through my challenging years in middle school, especially with my most dreaded subjects. High school flew by with a breeze. I'd like to thank my parents, for all the years of encouraging, educating me, and the occasional corrections. I never cease to learn something from you everyday. You both guided me through all difficult lessons. I'd like to thank Mr. Brad, for all the help you gave throughout middle school and high school, thank you.

I'd also like to thank WCFS. Thanks to WCFS and homeschooling, I get to travel worldwide for mission trips with my parents, sharing as much love as God has given me with others.

To my fun sisters- Hanna, Tirza, and Queen. Without you my school life would have been boring! Thank you for all the fun talks, the shopping, the late night slumber parties- where Dad always caught us, the school field trips, the fun time I had when you screamed- when I put a fake spider in your room, and now as we get older, the close relationship we still have. We were born sisters, but grew up friends.

To my little brothers, Gad Eliezer and Aser Simeon. This family never ceases to have boring and quiet days with both of you around. Both of you bring lots of energy and noise to our household. Gad, thanks for all your chats,

and know-hows. You're always explaining to me ridiculous information about cars, engines, and what not. Your smart and fun brain always gives me loads to think about. Doing my school days I can't say how much I appreciate all the little and big things that were done in order for me to have a great experience. Orrin Hatch once said that Graduation is not the end; it's the beginning. As high school comes to an end, my education does not. With God and my parents by my side, I'm constantly learning new things. As for my future education, I plan to achieve a BA in Business, continue studying my love for graphic and web design and traveling for mission trips with my parents. Thank you WCFS for making this day possible and so special to me.

Psalms 145:3 "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable,"

Thank you for listening!



James Lewis

My name is James Aaron Lewis. First and foremost, I would like to thank God for giving me the strength to accomplish my schoolwork, for putting the right people in my life to help me with my learning disabilities; and for Rob and Carol from Vision Therapy. I would also like to thank FCA and the Maryland

Christian Saints Coaches; for giving me the opportunity to play football and teaching me about God, to be a better person, to go 100% and not give up. Joey, my wingman, thanks for being there for me, you're the best. I'm glad I have you as my brother. Thanks for having my back; I've got yours. As for my future plans, God's in control. And I trust Him. He has something for me and I'm waiting to see what it will be.



Jacob McCurdy

My grandfather was a POW in Germany during WWII. But he knows nothing about what it's like to live in a Homeschool POW camp run by my commandant parents. Then there are my fellow soldiers - my brother who taught me what not to do in life and my sister who taught me how not to have a life. I can't forget

Sergeant Troyer who whipped me through math, and my comrade, Logan, who helped me keep my sanity after these torture sessions. Finally there are the Red Cross servants: Mrs. Judy Cardwell, the Beaumonts, and Mrs. Laurie Walsh who played a major part in my love for creating pottery.

In all seriousness, I would like to thank my Dad for teaching me many handyman skills; my mom for being such a good sport and laughing at my slapstick remarks; my brother Josh who is my friend and someone I enjoy being with now that our relationship struggles are over; my sister Christy for being so adventurous and exciting to be with when she isn't overwhelmed with college, and also for pushing me out of my comfort zone; Miss Berty for helping me greatly through higher math; and the Lord for revealing to me my gift and love for pottery - first through Mrs. Judy Cardwell who introduced me to pottery, next through Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Beaumont who inspired me to pursue this craft, and finally through Mrs. Laurie Walsh who opened up a vast world of artistic ideas to me. As for the future, I hope to continue working for a great home improvement company while building up my pottery business. Ultimately my desire is to have a full-time career in pottery.

My favorite verse is Isaiah 16:8: "But now, O Lord, You are our Father, we are the clay, and You are our potter; and all of us are the work of Your hand."



Amy McNamara

Most importantly, I'd like to thank the Lord for giving me parents that homeschooled me and the many other people that guided me in my walk with Him. My parents have been incredibly supportive and helpful to me, and I would not be where I am without them. Being homeschooled has given me the opportunity to gain a

love of learning, to learn how to teach myself, and to explore and develop my personal interests. I'd also like to give a special thank you to the entire WCFS staff for their encouragement and guidance throughout my years as a homeschooled student. In the fall, I will be attending the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. I would love to study either Biology or Chemistry in college. I am not certain what career I will pursue in the future, but I will be listening to what the Lord is calling me to do.



Luke McNamara

First off, I would like to thank the Lord for His kindness in guiding me through my high school years. Even though they have not been the easiest years, He has seen me through and helped me to grow in my faith. I would also like to thank my parents for taking the time to help me through high school. Lastly, I would like to thank all

of my friends I have made throughout the years and their

encouragement they have given me. My future plans are to join the military and continue my education and perhaps pursue a computer engineering degree.



Holly Stanker

Hello everyone; it is such an honor to be standing on this stage. I want to first take the time to voice my appreciation for all of the people that have influenced me and who have helped me to get where I am today. I want to thank the Lord for giving my parents the wisdom and patience that was necessary to assist me in my

homeschool journey. Thank you to my mother who somehow managed to keep my schooling on track even through the extremely difficult times my family has faced. She is one of the strongest women I know. I have a great deal of love and respect for her. I give thanks to my father for pushing me to go further and aim higher. He has taught me that I can achieve almost anything as long as I persevere. To the rest of my family, thank you for the continuous support and guidance. I love and appreciate you all more than any formation of words can explain. A big "Thank You" goes out to Brad Main. Without him my mother and I would have lost our minds at this point. Thank you to Mr. Gary Cox for teaching the research class. I appreciate every single red marking that you put on my paper. Thanks to you I have learned how to properly write a research paper. Thank you to my senior classmates. You guys rock. My final thanks go out to the staff at WCFS. Without you guys none of this would have been possible.

There are many lessons that I have learned from homeschooling. Through homeschooling I have learned the importance of discipline. I have learned that finishing a project the night before it is due is the perfect way to stress yourself out. But on a more serious note. Homeschooling has opened the doors to so many opportunities that I would not have been able to receive if I was in public school.

As for my future, I plan to major in psychology at my local community college for two years, then hopefully spend my next two years at an out of state university. One day I would like to receive my PSY.D and become a child psychologist. Once again, thank you to everyone who has

helped me along my homeschool journey.

Isobel Tate

Congratulations Class of 2015, we did it!

Hi my name is Isobel Tate and I would like to start off by



thanking my Savior Jesus Christ and for my parents and the decision that they made to homeschool me and my brothers and getting us the best possible education that they could. I would like to give a special thank you to my mom for always being there for me even though we had times where we would fight and strongly disagree on things, I knew she would always be there in the end and especially when I needed her she never let me down. I would really like to thank my mom for all the things that she has taught me and for being one of my biggest supporters especially on the soccer field. I'd like to thank my dad for the things he has taught me especially in soccer. He has taught me how to be tough on the field and off, because of that I have been able to out muscle guys twice my size and win and I know I can make it through and be tough through the challenges I will face in life. To my brothers and all my friends and family I'd like to say thanks for all the many fun times we have had and all the memories we have from over the years for sticking it out with me through all the rough times. You have all made a huge impact on my life and I'm very grateful for it. A special thank you should definitely go to the awesome staff we have a WCFS for all the time they have invested into us and everything they have taught us about school, life and even sports. High school has definitely had its ups and downs, but through it all I believe I learned a lot and I have come out stronger and with more knowledge to go out and face the world and succeed. As for future plans I am attending Southern Wesleyan University in South Carolina in the fall pursuing a career in Child advocacy. After I graduate from SWU with my degree I plan on seeing what God's plan and life holds for me. The verse I would like to share with you comes from Isaiah 40:31: "For those who hope in the Lord He will renew their strength they will soar on wings like eagles they will run and not grow weary they will walk and not be faint." This verse has meant a lot to me and has always been a firm reminder of the strength we can find in Christ.



Kaleb Wagner

I would like to thank God for helping me through the past several years, without him it would have been much more difficult. I would also like to thank my family for putting up with me, and helping and supporting me through the most difficult things like Algebra and my research paper. I am thankful for the staff of WCFS

for the help and support they give throughout your time in school. Although life ahead is still not crystal clear for me yet, God and my family will always be there to help me through whatever comes.



Philip Waldhauser

Well, here I am! It's been quite the ride full of twists and turns and plenty of loops. I first want to give thanks to the Lord for not only getting me through this and helping me learn a few things in the process; like "don't hit your brother" and "speak kindly." God helped me academically and also how to

live a Godly life.

Besides God my mom has obviously been the biggest help. She's taught me things to do and other things to stay away from. She has been the biggest Godly influence on me because every day she always asked me if I did devotions or quiet time with God yet.

My mom has homeschooled my oldest brother Jeff from grade 1 to 12, my older brother Austin from grade 1 to 12, and now is finished teaching me, but she still has one more to go. My younger brother Josh is the final student. What a trooper she has been! Thanks mom!

My dad and my brothers have also helped some too. The one thing I do like about math is that my father would take me to Ocean City, Maryland for what we called a math marathon. It's a three day weekend where we do 10 days worth of math to catch up from falling behind. It was special to me then because we would always eat out at our favorite restaurant and go to the boardwalk on our free time. What makes it so special now is that I realized how much time that he has sacrificed for me.

When I was younger I did not like being homeschooled or belonging to Walkersville. I looked at it as not going to public school and not having a lot of friends and also having deadlines and requirements, but now I realize that I had the best of both worlds. The freedom of being homeschooled and also much support academically and spiritually. With that being said I'd like to give a special thanks to Mr. Gary Cox and Mr. Brad Main, you both have been a huge blessing on me and my family.

My plans now are to start working with my dad full-time. I'd like to grow in the kitchen business and hopefully become the owner one day. My options are still open though because I know God has the final call. I try not to be anxious about my career and this Bible verse helps me do that.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."

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Benjamin Wold

First, I want to thank you mom and dad. You have continuously poured into me and you have shown me what living a life that glorifies God looks like. You have pushed me in ways that I have not wanted to be pushed yet needed to be. You have stood unwavering by my side in the good and in the extremely hard times and I thank you for

that.

For my future plans, I'm in the middle of applying to Boyce College which is the undergrad school of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky where I will pursue a degree in Biblical Counseling.

Last, I would like to share a quick testimony of what God has been showing me, and that is this: in the midst of the craziness and business of life, God is our unmovable foundation in whom we can always trust and come before Him in our weakest moments and not be turned away. That is not because what we have done but only by the blood of Jesus Christ. I realize that the craziness and business of life at the age of 18 will look very different from when I am 28, 38, 48 and so on but God promises never to leave me and he will never forsake his promises. In closing I want to read Lamentations 3:22-24: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, therefore I will hope in him."

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Why did you come to Jesus?

By Timothy Shell, WCFS Alumni

What brought Blind Bartimeus to Jesus? He wanted to see! His need brought Him to Jesus. (Mark 10:46)

What brought the Philippian Jailer to Jesus? He wanted to not die, to escape the punishment for any jailer who lost his prisoners!

My friend Maidar lost the use of his arm in a car accident, but that brought him to Jesus so he is thankful.

What brought you to Jesus?

Our needs bring us to Jesus, but Jesus brings us to our need.

Why does Jesus often mention sin in the gospels when dealing with a person who comes to Him with a need? Why does He say, "you are forgiven" when they were asking for healing? Because they needed forgiveness more! Their primary need was for their sins to be forgiven, not for their body to be healed. If the body is healed, but the person is not forgiven, then they die and are lost! What is the benefit of that? However, this was the case with many people who started out following Jesus but later turned away. Having your body healed is different from having your soul saved.

Jesus is glad when we come to Him, glad when our troubles and sorrows push us to Him; but once we cry to Him to save us we should be prepared for more than just escaping our troubles, but facing our sin.

I need to be healed, delivered from someone, rescued from a storm, rain for the land, freedom from a debt, deliverance from a demon, and so on. But when I meet Jesus, what does He say to me? Repent! He puts His finger on my sin and challenges me to repent, to turn 180 degrees away from my sin and go the other direction, to change my mind and agree with Him that what I am doing is wrong.

"Then they cry to Him in their distress....", Psalm 107 has five stories about people who were about to die and cried to God who saved them. At the end it says, "Whoever is wise and will observe these things, even they will understand the lovingkindness of the Lord". This is the kind of God we have, One who saves, but not just from troubles —He saves from sin!

When the angel came to Mary, he didn't mention what to name the child, but when he went to Joseph he did, "thou shalt call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins", not just their sorrows and troubles. *Why did you come to Jesus?* If you came for a financial problem, or a health problem, or a family problem, or a marriage problem, or other problem, that's a good place to start, but don't stop there!

Have you dealt with your sins with Jesus? Have you taken care of your main problem? Have you admitted you are a sinner? That you are wrong and have done many wrong things? That you need God to forgive you. You have asked Jesus to save you from your problem, but have you asked Him to save you from your sin?

How to deal with your sin...

Honestly: don't try to hide and make excuses and justify your self, be absolutely honest with God. You get nowhere with God if you aren't totally honest. "Naked and bare", the Bible says.

Fairly: If you are wrong admit it. Be just. Don't say something is right that is wrong. God may be accusing you, or a person, or the devil. Agree with the accuser if you are wrong. If you are 10% wrong admit it.

Quickly: Don't delay if you are wrong. Delay gains you nothing. Change your mind right now.

Make it right: If you stole, pay it back. Humble yourself and ask forgiveness.

Be happy again: There is no reason to live a sad life filled with bad feelings all day long because of something we did wrong. Deal with it right away and get on with living. Nothing can be right in your life till you deal with your sin.

Repent Like a Little Child!

We must study to show ourselves approved unto God but nowhere does it tell us to study sin. The fact is, the Bible says to be excellent at what is good and be innocent of evil; it says to love the good and hate the evil; if you love the Lord, hate evil; it says to think about whatever is true, honest and just; things of good report and worthy of praise and so on. Where do you find sin in that list of thoughts? We are not supposed to be creatures taken up with our sin by examining, dissecting, probing and working through it in great detail!

We are commanded to become as little children. Little children are innocent and live in a world of innocence until an adult convicts them of sin, "You stole and ate your brothers candy, you are a thief, now you will have to pay him back for what you stole a double portion." A little child is oblivious to their sin until convicted. The child is clearly told what they did wrong, then they are clearly told what the consequences will be, then they are given opportunity to make it right, and they deal with it all in a matter of minutes or an hour or so at the most, not much more than that. Then they are free and happy again, back to playing and enjoying life. They don't take days and weeks and months and years to deal with their wrong doing; who could live like that? But many believers do. The Bible says to deal quickly with your sin and with your adversary. Like a child.

Children quickly admit their feelings and what they want, they don't hide what is in their heart, they are open with

their grudges and disappointments. So they deal with life in a healthy manner. They are generally quick to forgive and forget.

The Holy Spirit is the adult in your life who is responsible to convict you of sin. If He isn't dealing with you about something then you are free and clear and allowed to enjoy life. He is very specific, your conviction and judgement are plain, there is no vagueness, no guessing on your part, no confusion and no condemnation, but a plain presentation of your wrong. You are not to go digging up sins of the past and spending hours contemplating your mistakes in fine detail over and over. God does not want us to be dwelling on sin all day long. He wants us to repent quickly and get on with enjoying our relationship with Him. He's not a hard task master, His yoke is easy and His burden light. He says don't fret over evil doers, that includes you! Don't fret over the old man, reckon him to be dead just like God says.

Worship Like King David!

Recently, I received this devotional email from a dear brother in Christ. It reflects an attitude of gratitude and worship as the fruit of rightly coming to Jesus. I will close with these thoughts...

"I have had another terrible day and night. The pain, is relentless and debilitating, affecting the mind and emotions as it grinds me down. I could not imagine how I could ever see one of my kids go through this and not move heaven and earth to try and help. If a dog was left to live in this state of chronic, debilitated, and at times intense excruciating sustained pain, it would be considered cruelty.

"I awoke this morning, hardly having slept, and not knowing where to go with my thoughts, asking Him to help me center my thoughts on Him — and there was a 'BUT GOD' moment, as He reminded me of Psalm 103:1. I went back to the Psalm and thought on how His Name, 'LORD' is used in various other Scriptures and I put some of them together like a pearl necklace, as fuel to focus and bless Him. Below is the devotional I wrote and posted today. I hope it will encourage you! Let some of the ways He reveals Himself be as "fuel" to meditate upon, to strengthen your heart and a springboard for worship to..." —A.

"Bless the LORD, O MY SOUL (-Psalm 103:1)..." "BLESS" (*Speak well of or Praise*) always implies a strong affection for or gratitude: A Celebration of His Attributes, A Grateful Celebration of Him, and the gracious blessings He bestows. We BLESS and praise Him, with *every* part of our *whole* being, gratefully speaking well of Him, who is "LORD". The Word, reveals Him in several beautiful aspects, like a jewel with its various facets of brilliance that capture and captivate the mind and influence our affections where the heart and mind unite to *Speak well of Him, Rise up to Praise Him, and to BLESS Him.*

12 REASONS TO BLESS HIM:

- * *BLESS the LORD!* (Psalm 103:1)
- * BLESS the LORD! — who is GOD (Gen 2:4-5)
- * BLESS the LORD! — who PROVIDES (Gen 22) (Abraham to Issac: *The LORD will PROVIDE!*)
- * BLESS the LORD ! — who is the SELF EXISTENT One (Ex 3:13-15) (The Great I Am — in need of nothing or no one outside of Himself.)
- * BLESS the LORD! — who is the FAITHFUL COVENANT KEEPING ONE. (Deut 7:9) (He is faithful, reliable, trustworthy, who has never failed to keep His PROMISE, nor ever will!)
- * BLESS The LORD! — who is UNCHANGING (Mal 3:6) (He is forever the same: Immutable; Unchanging in His Person, His Power, His promises, His Love and His Word!)
- * BLESS The LORD! — who is the SOVEREIGN KING (Isaiah 45) (He is over all; He rules and reigns Sovereignly over His Creation, His Salvation and Man's Eternal Destination!)
- * BLESS the LORD! — my HELPER and SUSTAINER (Psalm 121:3)
- * BLESS the LORD! — the CREATOR of HEAVEN and EARTH- -(Psalm 121:3)
- * BLESS the LORD! — HOLY and REVEREND is His Name (Psalm 111:9)

These are some ways the LORD'S name is revealed. To *BLESS The LORD* speaks of Him in His many facets of brilliance and blessings of graciousness and mercy which come forth from Him. To *BLESS THE LORD* includes all that He is. These few verses show some of His splendor and majesty that are revealed in scripture as: LORD, GOD, PROVIDER, SELF-EXISTENT, COVENANT KEEPING, UNCHANGING, SOVEREIGN KING, HELPER, SUSTAINER, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, and HOLY! It is to *this ONE* that King David rally's himself; speaks to himself; and chooses, irrespective of circumstances, feelings! He awakens and calls all of his being to participate in this one GLORIOUS AND PRAISE-WORTHY ADVENTURE AND ATTENTION to "BLESS THE LORD!"

BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL AND ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME- BLESS HIS HOLY NAME! If you take each verse above and choose to "BLESS" Him for each aspect of His being mentioned, you will have Blessed Him, Spoken well of Him and Praised Him for 12 glorious facets! Like King David, may He hear you choose with all that is within you to BLESS the LORD — BLESS HIS HOLY NAME!"

STUDENT DEVELOPER

Louis Zamperini's Journey to Christianity

By Alex Bruns, Class of 2015

Courage! An Airplane Crash! Two years of survival! *Unbroken* is a story of a World War II veteran named Louis Zamperini. Louis lived during the great depression and World War II. He joined the Air Force during the war. One fateful day, a dramatic tragedy changed his life forever.

Louis Zamperini was born on January 26, 1917, in New York. When Louis was two years old, his family moved to Torrance, California. Growing up, Louis was a bratty kid; he would rob and he hurt other people. He was not a likeable kid. At five years old Louis started smoking. His life was a mess. His brother Pete, who lived the complete opposite lifestyle of Louis, changed his life. Pete helped Louis to become a professional runner. Once Louis realized that he was excellent at running, he started to win every single race he ran. He ran a mile in a little over four minutes when he was about seventeen. Zamperini had a goal to be an Olympic runner. He made the 1936 team by qualifying in the Olympic tryouts and headed to the games in Germany. He was nineteen years old. He finished in eighth place in the 1500 meter race. His next goal was to win gold in the 1940 games in Japan. However, World War II canceled the 1940 Olympic Games.

Since the 1940 Olympics were canceled, Louis was drafted into the war, and he chose to serve in the Air Force. He made many friends. He transferred to the American base in Hawaii. Many of his new friends died in plane crashes because these planes were not the best planes in the world. He was a member of the crew of the plane called Super Man. Super Man survived an attack of battle, but it would never fly again. Louis and his friend Phil, the pilot of Super Man, were given the following assignment: to find a plane that went down. Louis, Phil and ten other men flew on the new plane called the Green Hornet. This plane tragically crashed on the fateful day of Zamperini's life: May 27, 1943.

Louis and two of his friends, Phil and Mac, survived the crash into the Pacific Ocean. Hoping to be found, Louis tried to spare what little food and water they had left.

However, Mac ate it all in confusion while Louis and Phil were asleep. For forty-seven days, Phil and Louis survived on the lifeboat while Mac died on the thirty-third day after the crash. Finally, Zamperini and Phil landed on Japanese land and were taken captive. For the rest of the war Louis and Phil were prisoners. They were brutally tortured by the Japanese.

While in captivity, Louis faced the toughest time of his life. He was not fed enough. He was tortured. In the last two camps he lived in there was a guard in charge that was dubbed as The Bird. The Bird tormented Louis for the last fifteen months of his captivity. After World War II was over, Louis returned home and tried to start over. Louis married and had two children. Sadly, the events in Japan made him have nightmares about The Bird. His wife helped him stop having these nightmares by taking Louis to the Billy Graham revival. Reluctantly, Louis attended the meetings twice. Louis became a Christian on the second night of the revival. Once Louis became a Christian, he had no more bad dreams of the Bird.

The book *Unbroken* is an outstanding story of courage, survival, and new life. Louis Zamperini's life before the war was normal, but tragic events of the war changed the course of his life. Amazingly, Louis, the broken angry man, returned to Japan and forgave the people that hurt him. *Unbroken* is a true story of how Louis changes from being a criminal to becoming a Christian.



Becky's Tips

1. Christmas and the Gospel

All through the Word of God we see God, Himself, showing fallen man his need of a Rescuer, a Savior. We see God offering a plan for the remission of sin, my sin. Read Leviticus to see how intricately detailed the instructions were from God for man to be forgiven. Notice in Lev. 6:1-6 that the one who has robbed, cheated, threatened or lied about any of that must follow specific directions to make restitution. Then he must offer a specific kind of ram. Then the priest will make atonement. For each kind of offering the priest and his sons must follow God's detailed directive. This reveals to us the nature of God and the way He views the horror of wrongdoing.

"But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law." Gal. 4:4

Notice that in God's own timing He fulfilled the plan that He had to offer redemption to His fallen creation. Celebration is in order. But could we challenge one another to have that celebration because we see and know God's love for us?

2. Engagement Learning

All tenth graders need NOT do the same thing. As home-school teachers we are often tormented by our own inadequacies as we look at what other families are doing. Also, we tend to be on the look out for better curriculum, smoother schedules and easier methods for teaching.

All of this rush to cover or appease our inadequacies can be helped if we realize that God has created us and chosen us. In doing that He allowed for gifts and weaknesses. He has purpose in all that He has created. We dilute the training that our children would flourish in if we constantly seek to teach what everyone else is teaching.

For now, consider that individual thumb print of your student and seek God's guidance for preparing him for God's own specific purpose.

3. Reduce Stuff

At August's workshop we talked about reducing our stuff in order to reduce the time needed to maintain that stuff. I trust you are continuing your quest to simplify. I am. During this holiday season consider offering some of your stuff to someone who really needs it. Remember that you are looking for someone who really needs it. Otherwise you are only perpetuating your own problem!

4. Reading Tips

Young beginning readers- Remember that during this stage much of the reading that your student does will be oral. When the child has read a word, phrase or sentence, pause to ask him what that means. Encourage him to tell you what he's reading even if he read only one word. This will help focus for comprehension in later grades.

Middle readers- Once your student has begun to fluently read, diminish the amount of oral reading. Begin by having him read one short paragraph silently. Then choose one sentence for him to read orally. It is still perfectly acceptable to read orally to younger siblings.

Older readers- By fifth or sixth grade encourage students to read to research answers to questions related to all academic subjects. Begin that research with simple questions and progress to actually knowing how to write up your findings giving credit through footnotes and bibliography.

Caution- If you have an older reader who is NOT fluent in reading, that child should be evaluated and assigned exercises and assignments to improve the fluency. Research would probably be one of these assignments but the method of doing the research would be individualized after evaluation.

5. Joy

Do a few things well at this holiday season, rather than trying to incorporate everything you hear and read into your family.

Suggestion- Consider one life-changing, life-giving tradition to continue or to begin. As your family grows and scatters the myriad of things you didn't do will dim in importance to the life-giving tradition you started.

Love, Becky

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