

WHAT'S HAPPENING

IT'S THE START OF SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL



Last month I talked about the urgency to start something. I'm a little curious if you have started something, or maybe you quit something instead. Bob Goff is one of my favorite people, even though I have never actually met him. I saw him speak at a conference, I have talked to him on the phone a couple times, I have emailed him a couple times, and I have read his book *Love Does* (which is awesome, by the way). He has a weekly routine that baffles me and I can't fully

understand it, but for him, it's natural. He says every week, on Thursday, he quits something. I am not a "quitter," so that idea makes me very uncomfortable. But it can also have some pretty good effects behind it, too. I think I over analyze things so I think "I can't quit something every week, I'm not a quitter." But, what if we thought about it in a different way? What if this week I quit worrying about gas prices, for example. Or, I quit worrying about that new truck I want. Or, I quit trying to plan

my life because God is trying to do that. What if, instead, I quit those things and just "let God"? God has a plan for each and everyone of us and it is only when we get out of our own way that God can actually use us to do the things He wants us to do. So, as Spring is knocking on our door and I'm reminded of Bob Goff, let's quit something so we can start something beautiful. I don't know what that is for you and I don't really know what that is for me either, but let's do it!

ADOPTION UPDATE

As most of you know, Kim and I have been working on an adoption for over 4 years. Things have changed and we switched agencies and countries and were working on bringing a little girl home from Poland. We got a call recently that changed that everything. We were told that the Foster Family that has had this little girl for a long time has

decided to adopt her into their own family and that we will not be able to adopt her. This has been a hard thing to take as we have poured so much time, money, and love into this little girl. Our heart breaks because we cannot bring her home, but we also understand that it is better for her to stay in her home country. She has a family that loves her and that she also loves and has attached to and it is

simply a better option that she stays with them. It is hard to say, but God has a plan for us and this must be a small piece of it. We do not know what our next steps will be, but we are seeking God's will and guidance in these coming weeks and months. We know there are many options on the table for where to go from here and we are simply not in a place to

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The Wolcott Word... by Rob

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"What's in a Name?"

1 Corinthians 11:1 "Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ"

Name the president based on their nickname:

"Dubya" "The Gipper" "Iron Butt" "The Kansa Cyclone"

Name the Sports Figure based on their nickname:

"Mr. Big Shot" "Broadway Joe" "Duke" "The Great Bambino"

(If you don't know the

answers, ask Pastor Rob)

Someone's character or accomplishments can give them a nickname or a "new" name like Saul to Paul or Abram to Abraham or Jesus using Peter's name to show he would be a "rock" for the foundation of the church. Sometimes a nickname is meant to be derogatory like: "Goody two shoes" "Four eyes" "nerd" or "Bible thumper." The term "Christian" was originally

meant as an insult. Your given name may have some history or meaning behind it. When naming our kids, we decided against names that belonged to someone who affected our lives negatively and we **agreed** on names (Taryn, Jocelyn and Owen) of people that were positive influences in our lives. Paul challenged the Corinthian church to

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KIM'S KORNER

As you read on page one, our lives have taken a pretty big turn in the last couple weeks. We have gone from planning, hoping and dreaming for a little blond haired blue eyed girl to being completely lost, not knowing what to do next. I am going to be honest with you this is one of the hardest things I have ever dealt with. Now, here I am supposed to write some form of biblical wisdom or inspiration for you in this newsletter and all I can think is that I don't want to! I am struggling with being very angry with this situation and with God. There are lots of "why" questions rolling around in my head like "why did we have to get this far, why did they change their mind, why did God feel we needed to endure this pain?" I will probably never get the answers to any of them. That is hard for me. I like to plan and I like to know what is going on and I like to know the reasoning behind things. But instead.... I now have to just trust!!! I have to trust that He has greater plans, to trust that He has placed her with the family she is supposed to grow up with, and trust that in the end my heart will heal. Trusting in the unseen plans He has for us is

not easy! But Christ never said it would be. "... In this life you will have trouble...." and we are supposed to "Consider it pure joy whenever we face trials of many kinds, because we know that the testing of our faith produces perseverance, so that we may become mature in our faith" (My paraphrase for James 1:2-4) Now does that mean we can't be angry at times, or upset, or disappointed or confused? NO. Not as long as we hold on to our belief in Him and that He loves us!!! We can share all these emotions with Him, because God has broad shoulders and can handle it, we just have to talk to him!!! And through it all He will carry us!!! Our "Pure Joy" is in knowing that we have a God that loves us unconditionally, even when we are angry, and He still wants to have a relationship and in that we have Hope for eternity!!



STUDENT THOUGHTS... EMILY NORTNIK



"Love is all you need"

As I sit here with the Beatles song "Love Is All You Need" bouncing around in my head, I can't help but smile because of the immense comfort that

thinking about this message brings me, and because of how right the Beatles really were.

I have been learning a lot lately about what it means to have a relationship with God, how to strengthen it, how to learn about Him, and how to spread His word. I am so grateful for the people that God has recently placed in my life to help me on this journey, and in that short time I have already learned so much about what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

Being a disciple of Christ is super awesome. It's beautiful and humbling and extraordinary. But it's also really scary. You think: "I'm not qualified for this? I don't

know enough! Where do I start?" It's kinda overwhelming, and it's really easy to compare yourself and your actions and your faith to others. But there has been a recurring message that I have heard a lot recently, and it's that it all comes down to love. Eric mentioned it at the end of a lesson a few weeks ago; he told us to remember one thing - to love. Even when all we want to do is hate, to love everyone. This really struck a chord with me because it's the answer! Love is the answer! Don't know how to treat people? Love them! Don't know how to show people God? Love them! Don't know how to talk to God? Tell Him that you love Him! I found it amazing the profundity of what appears to be such a simple concept (love).

In the book of Corinthians, Paul tells us the most excellent way to be a disciple of Christ. Can you guess it? That's right - it's to love! He says (1 Corinthians 13:13), "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love." Everything is rooted in love. To quote Francis Chan from

Multiply: Disciples Making Disciples, "It's not about what you know - or what you think you know - it's about love. The focus isn't even really on teaching them - it's on loving them...What matters is your interaction with the people God has placed in your life." The repetition of this message offers reassurance and grace in the place of what can so often be intimidation and fear. If there is still hesitation, we can turn to Jesus, as he is the ultimate example of God's love. "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers" (1 John 3:16).

If you're ever feel like you're losing direction with your faith, or you're just doing all the wrong things, just love. If you don't know how to deal with those difficult people in your life right now, or you feel like God is testing you in every way possible, just love. And if you're ever feeling discouraged, just think (sing!) about the Beatles: "All you need is love, love...love is all you need!"

March

Sun

Mon

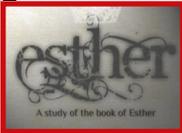
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

26 	27	28	1	2	3 	4
5 MYNAME is PAUL	6	7	8	9	10	11 
12 	13	14	15	16	17	18
19  Who was John the Baptist?	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Senior Packets Due 	27	28	29	30	31	1

26th & 1st— The book of Job... if there was ever an example of faithfulness and trust in God and his unending love for us it is in the book of Job. This will be a great time to analyze a story about trusting in God and how He is faithful to us.

3rd— Family Game Night at DCC. Bring your family, a snack to share, and your favorite game(s). Festivities run from 6:00 to 9:00.

5th & 8th— This week we are going to look at the life of Paul... who he was, what he did, and how God used him. I especially love the back story of Paul and his ministry so I am very excited for this week.

11th— Today the Youth Group will be serving dinner at **The Abraham Connection** homeless shelter. We are only taking a limited amount of people, so only the first 8 students to volunteer will be able to go (this time). If you want to go, please let me know personally as I build a list of volunteers.

12th & 15th— Kim is sharing about one of her favorite characters in the Bible, Esther. This will be a great discussion as we look at another example of how God used an unlikely woman to change history.

19th & 22nd— John the Baptist had an interesting start to life and we get to discuss what that looked like and also, how God used him to tell about the coming Messiah.

26th— I need time to prepare for our special Graduating Senior Sunday (on May 7), so I need to get your Senior Packets back by today. Please make sure I get them back... if I don't have one for you, then I will assume you don't want to take part and I will regrettably not include you on Senior Sunday.

26th & 29th— David was said to be a man after God's own heart. This week Rob will look at the life of David and pull out some lessons that we can apply to our own lives. During this week, Rob will be in charge of Youth activities because we will be on vacation. After our recent disappointments with our adoption being shut down, Kim and I have decided that we need to take a family vacation. Our life has been on hold for years through this process and we are going to take our kids and make some family memories. I would ask that you keep us in your prayers as we seek God's plan for our lives and also for safety on our road trip.

SUMMER CAMPS

It's about that time again. Summer is rapidly approaching and I have started looking at our summer activities. I should have a list of activities available in the next couple months, but I wanted to draw your attention to a couple things so you have some details on those well enough in advance to plan for them. First, our High School students are going on a Mission Trip to Jamaica in the end of June. We will be

gone for a week doing anything from construction to VBS to any community work that the local church needs help with. We don't know exactly what we are doing, but we are going to the Montego Bay area of Jamaica. Please be in prayer for the safety and success (in God's eyes) of this trip. Also, please be in prayer for the financial requirements of this trip. As you can imagine, any International trip will be

expensive and it will only be with God's provision that we will be able to pay for it all. Also, the Middle School Camp at Four Corners Christian Camp has been set for June 4-9. Details for this camp will follow in the next couple months, but if you have questions in the meantime, feel free to contact me and we can talk about things like cost, location, and what we do there.

ADOPTION UPDATE

(Continued from page 1)

consider any of them yet. As the wounds heal, and we can gain perspective again, we will see what God has for us. Until then, we would simply appreciate your prayers that God's plan for us becomes obvious and that we have the strength to follow His path. Thank you all so much for your continued support through this whole process.

WOLCOTT'S WORDS... CONT.

(Continued from page 1)

imitate Christ. The challenge in all of this is: Are you imitating Christ in such a way that someone might give you a nickname that reflects your Christian character? If not, how might you need to adjust your life so that your character and accomplishments reflect Christ more clearly to those you come into contact with? What might your "Christian" nickname be?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Hello Everyone. It's another month and another opportunity to get together. If you have anything on your mind that you need share, I'm here. If you have some concerns, some problems or some worries, I'm here. If God is working in your life and you feel like you just need to share that blessing with someone, I'm here. Whatever the situation is, I'm happy to get together to talk about it. I may or not be able to fix anything, but we can work through it together. The problem here is that if I don't know about it, we can't work through it. So, here's the bottom line... give me a call, shoot me a text, or send up a smoke signal and let's meet up.

Hello Everyone. It's another month and another opportunity to get together. If

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