



newsletter



Your Spiritual Identification

Almost 34 years ago ... (Wait a minute, that's too much information – ouch.) Well anyway, a number of years ago my wife and I experienced a cruise through five countries on the Rhine River. The trip was a reward because of my sales achievement with a health insurance company. It was for us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We saw things, places, and people we never dreamed of seeing. It's a strange feeling to be somewhere but not belong. None of those places were our home and we were there only a short period of time.

One thing that we were clearly and firmly instructed on were our passports. We were told that once aboard ship our passports would be held by the ship purser and we would be given replacement identification. "Don't lose it," they said, "take it with you wherever you go. You become nobody without it."

Early one morning on the cruise ship, I awakened to the noise of the motor of another boat. Parting the window curtain, I saw a military-type boat cruising alongside us and watched as uniformed men jumped from our ship to their boat. We had crossed into Germany and they were checking each and every passport. Not only did Germany do that, but so did each country we visited.

When it's game day here in Haven, it's fairly easy to see who's a Wildcat fan. Hats, shirts, sweaters, even stadium seats proclaim one's loyalty. Those items are like passports into being a fan. They demonstrate that we represent a town, a school, a sports team and we're proud of it.

There's another passport we all should have: Jesus Christ. The Bible says that the names of those who believe in Him are written down in the Lamb's Book of Life. That's our heavenly passport because our citizenship is in heaven according to scripture. And those names and only those names written there make heaven their eternal home. In the meantime we take the identity of Jesus Christ with us wherever we go. We have it with us when we yell at the kids or the dog; or when we kick the mower that won't start; or honk at the slow turning driver; or sigh real loud because the customer in front of us picked up an item with no price tag.

What if we were asked for our spiritual identification? Would it be embarrassing to show that our passport is in Jesus' name? **If you believe in Jesus, you represent Jesus.** Philippians 1:27 says, "*Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel.*"

Many people claim Christ but when push comes to shove, they don't care what they make of themselves as long as they get their rights. They'll raise a stink if they're shortchanged but won't go back in to the store if they got too much change. Did Jesus say, "I have my rights"? Or does the Bible say He was silent and died for our sins so that we might be made right with Him?

So which right are you going to take, yours or His?

*In His Grip,
Pastor Tim*





"The Word"

February 2018



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Randy Lind

All of you who have been Christians for awhile have had the opportunity to learn how important the Bible, the Word of God, is to us believers. Just think about it; the Creator and Sustainer of the universe has seen fit to communicate directly with us through His written Word. No wonder that one of the most important spiritual disciplines is to read and study the Word of God. So why do I find that so hard to do?

Perhaps that last statement was not what you were expecting. I hear other brothers and sisters in Christ talk about how much they love to spend time in the Word and the blessings they receive as a result of that time. For them, it is the highlight of their day. For me, it is a struggle. I am not sure why and quite frankly I am embarrassed to admit it. Perhaps there are others of you that struggle in that same way and maybe my confession will help you to realize that you are not alone. However, I do understand the importance of it and continue to try to make it a priority, even though I sometimes, after a time of reading the Word, say to myself, "Now, what did I just read?"

Here recently I am again making efforts. I did recently finish reading through the book of Philippians and did notice how packed the 4th chapter of Philippians is with power house scriptures. I suppose every word in the Bible is packed with power but there are certain scriptures that seem to resonate with the body, as a whole, more than others. Now, for you A+ Bible students, what I am about to list below will be of no surprise to you. However, I was blessed by being reminded and thought some of you might be too. Take a look:

Philippians 4: 4; Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

Philippians 4: 6-8; Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the

peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.

Philippians 4: 12 & 13; I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4: 19; And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Truly some important principles that God has revealed to us through his servant Paul. And just think, there is so much more available to us in the rest of His Word.

I would ask that you all join me in praying that God would instill within me, and those like me, a thirst for His Word and the discipline to search through it daily and to hide it in my heart always.

Yours in Christ,
Randy





Walk to a Lifeline

For we **walk**
by **Faith** and
Not by **Sight**.

11 Cor. 5:7



A Third World H.E.A.R.T.

Glenn Koster February 2018



To say that this month has been a month of changes might be an understatement. It is very different when neither of us have to get up in the morning to head off to work. However, the biggest change has been in our location. We left behind the cold, windy weather of Kansas to be greeted by (much) warmer, but still windy weather in south Florida. Along the way, we saw traces of snow and experienced many nights with freezing temperatures.

We have stayed in a variety of locales during our journey south, from Walmart parking lots to church parking lots. We have stayed in upscale RV parks (made possible in Land O' Lakes because one couple was running a day late) to run-down, wayside RV parks that you are afraid to even write home about!

We have visited several different congregations along the way, including one with an interim pastor as they seek out whom the Lord would have them call. We have visited with a variety of folks from all walks of life, including pastors, newspaper reporters, waitresses, and even former long-distance hikers. We even had the pleasure of spending time with family (on both sides).

Yet nothing could have possibly prepared us for what we saw and experienced in Lake Wales.

On Wednesday night, January 24th, we had arranged to stay at Warner College because Charcie has some distant cousins and a former classmate at the college. What we did not realize was that the RV spot was not technically on campus. Rather, it was situated at the H.E.A.R.T. Institute adjacent to Warner College.

As we left the confines of Warner, via a well-travelled and rutted dirt path that gradually eroded as we drove further, it seemed that we simply left civilization behind. In a sense, we did. The H.E.A.R.T. (Hunger Education And Resource Training) Institute is a learning environment for missionaries before they leave for Third World countries. As a result, the Institute is designed to mirror a Third World village.

Those who train at the Institute do so without benefit of electricity, running water, or even heat (despite temperatures dipping into the mid-20s just two nights before our arrival). They have no Internet and only get mail every Friday. Gas stoves? No. They prepare their food outside on primitive wood stoves. Those who venture here for training leave everything behind so that they can prepare for what lies ahead. They learn everything the old-fashioned way, including drawing their own well water and growing their own food.

It was truly a wake-up call for us!

The Institute was started by a professor from Warner after some missionaries returned and reported that they were well equipped spiritually and linguistically, but were not prepared for the conditions they faced.

What started as a Church of God Institute now serves a wide variety of churches, with most students getting up to 18 hours of college credit from their home universities while attending.

May God continue to open our eyes to the needs of the world that are vastly different from our circumstances.

Glenn





Faith Journey

“From Fear to Fun”

By: *Glennis Lamb*

“With Lovingkindness Have I Drawn Thee”

We are all familiar with the term D-Day but during J-term, I experienced my own little D-Day which I prefer to call “Dooms Day.” I was enrolled in a class called “Military History.” I do love history and I thoroughly enjoyed reading the required material. I did not enjoy answering all the questions as they were wayyy out of my comfort zone.

My term paper for the J-term was on the M-1911. When my professor assigned me that topic I thought he was talking about some significant date in history. When I found out it was a gun I laughed myself silly!

Have you ever had a day when your kids drove you nutty asking you *why* this or *why* that? Well that about sums up my J-term class. By the time I was done answering 136 questions (I counted!) on why they did this or why they did that, I wanted to climb to the top of the highest mountain I could find and scream “I don’t care *why* and I don’t ever want to hear the word *why* again as long as I live!” Despite my ineptness, I passed the class. But to pass the class I had to face D-Day ... Dooms Day!

So that you know I am not totally unfamiliar with guns: I have shot several different guns throughout my life. That would include a “real” Civil War musket! One time this guy was going to let my oldest son shoot guns with him. When I dropped my kid off, he asked if I’d like to shoot one of his hand-guns. Of course I’m so shy ... well you get the picture. I said, sure. He warned me the gun was going to have a pretty good kick back so I was ready for that. What he didn’t warn me about was the fact that I was going to lose my hearing when the thing went off! Well, my experience with guns is limited to a few rabbit hunting trips with my dad, a few target practice trips with others, and occasionally shooting a gun off at home.

The day I dreaded had finally arrived. I decided to face it cheerfully and to have as much fun as possible in doing it! I had to take an AK-47 apart and put it back together. For all you guys out there that are rolling your eyes right now, you might want to know that I had never even loaded ammunition into a gun in my life until that week. I tried to convince my professor I was going to break

his gun! He didn’t buy it.

It started off really “great” (sarcasm intended). I kept pushing the button my professor told me was supposed to release some “*thing a ma jigger*” that I had to take off the gun. I finally looked at Dr. B and told him it was too hard. He quietly told me I was pushing it the wrong direction, not down but in. Hey, it came off really easy when I went the right way, but my thumb still hurt and I saw the humor in his eyes; I think he was really enjoying himself! Okay, this was just the

first thing I had to do and I bet he was beginning to wonder if I really could break his unbreakable gun!! This was going to be one long morning.

For the most part I was able to take the thing apart, as I’m pretty good at tearing things up! Now I was supposed to put the thing back together. All week long, I had watched videos about guns. About the only thing I can tell you is I was holding a spring and that thing did not want to go where I was told it was supposed to go. The boys caught me about to bop the professor with this piece of his obstinate gun! As I was trying to shove something into the gun that looked like a rod, it kept hitting something. I finally told my professor that “Your toys don’t work right!” The kids actually caught a picture of him laughing.

Well, to make a long story short, I put it back together, had a few laughs along the way, and in the end did something I really wasn’t sure I wanted to do and succeeded in finishing the task. I told the boys that it was a momentous day in my life! And most important, I passed the class!

God is stretching me spiritually. I had done my best to worm my way out of this class. It was outside of my comfort zone. God convicted me. I saw a lack of discipline in my life that needed correcting. In the end, this class ended up being one of my favorite classes. One reason was the fact that it was new information and you can bet your boots when the guy on the video called his gun sexy, I had fun with that one! Really, some guys need to get a life! From this experience I learned to face my fears head-on and sometimes the things we fear the most can bring us the most joy!



What is your greatest fear? Is God asking you to do something outside your comfort zone? Maybe, just maybe, there’s a hidden blessing waiting for you. God will not take you down any path where His grace is not sufficient to keep you. 2 Corinthians 12:9

“And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

*In Christ’s Love,
Glennis Joy*





February

2018

 Sun	 Mon	 Tue	 Wed	 Thu	 Fri	 Sat
				1 	2 	3
4 Common Ground 9:45 am. 	5 	6 Prayer Group 9:30 am.	7 Talon Blades	8 JESUS me	9 	10 Church Valentine Banquet 6:00 pm.
11 Common Ground 9:45 am. Date Night 6-8 pm. Wichita	12 God's Love Never Fails 	13 Prayer Group 9:30 am.	14 	15 Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. -John 13:34	16 	17 LET ALL that you do BE DONE IN love. <small>1 CORINTHIANS 16:14</small>
18 Common Ground 9:45 am. Jeremy Yates	19 	20 Prayer Group 9:30 am. Council Meeting 6:30 pm. Ted Fager	21 My Belongs To Jesus	22 	23 I JESUS	24
25 Common Ground 9:45 am. 	26 TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR <small>{preverbs 3:5}</small>	27 Prayer Group 9:30 am.	28 BE transformed BY THE renewing OF YOUR mind <small>Romans 12:2</small>		 L O V E is patient is kind does not envy does not boast is not proud is not rude is not self-seeking is not easily angered keeps no record of wrongs does not delight in evil rejoices with the truth always protects always trusts always hopes always perseveres never fails 1 Corinthians 13:4-8	



Meet Tammy Lind

February 2018

I had the privilege this month of interviewing Tammy Lind. She is vivacious, always has a smile, and is fun to be around. I always leave feeling encouraged after I've spent time talking to her. She treats you as if you were her best friend, so if you want a true-blue friend, get to know Tammy!

Tammy is very involved in the ministry at First Church of God. You will always see her doing something from singing on the Praise and Worship Team to working in the Sound Booth. When the church doors are open, the Linds are there. She is faithful in her service to the Lord and she serves with that winning smile on her face.

Tammy married Randy Lind on September 27, 1980 and they have three sons together. Their son Joshua is married to Ashley and they have three children, Aubrey, Brynlee, and Cooper. Caleb is married to Kayla and they have two sons, Hudson and Warner. Nathan is married to Ameer and they are expecting their first child in June.

Tammy met Randy in 1978 when he showed up to join a college age church singing group she was in. At the time, Tammy lived in Haysville while Randy lived in Andale. They became good friends and for a year and half they ran around together as a group. Their first date took place over Thanksgiving on November 22, 1979 when Randy asked Tammy to go to Wichita to see "*Fiddler on the Roof*" with him.

The most memorable trip the Linds ever took was in the summer of 1995. First off on their bucket list was a trip to Alabama where they visited the NASA Space Center. From there they traveled to Virginia Beach where their children got to play in the ocean for the first time. Along the way they stayed with family members and friends which added to the fun and joy they experienced. After leaving Virginia, they traveled the short distance to Washington, D.C. where they were able to go to the Space Museum, visit the Memorials, see the Capitol, visit several of the Smithsonians, and also have the opportunity to spend a day in historic Williamsburg. While in the area, they stayed with friends in Alexandria, making many fond memories.

Tammy along with her husband Randy started attending First Church of God in February of 1986. They had been earnestly looking for a church they could call home. Their next-door neighbors Johnny and Rhonda Knapp invited them to attend a service with them. Tim Kraft was the pastor at that time. The Linds were welcomed with open arms and they loved Pastor Tim and Sherril. There were lots of young families attending the church and they offered a Bible Study during the day where stay-at-home moms could bring their children along. They also had a good men's group. Some of the things Tammy likes about First Church of God are the family atmosphere, the great preaching, feeling like you are surrounded by Godly people, the fellowship and the praise and worship team. She always feel comfortable when at church.

Tammy was saved and baptized in the sixth grade. When she was in Junior High, she went to a Lay Witness Mission Weekend where there were lots of youth and adult activities. They also had youth speakers. That was the weekend where through good solid biblical preaching, her faith really solidified.

Tammy's favorite scripture verse is Philippians 4:13:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."





Coffee and More Sunday Morning

9:45-10:30 am.



*We hope that you will join us for a
coffee time and great fellowship.*

Valentines Banquet
Saturday February 10, 2018
At 6:00 pm.
Come for a time of food,
fellowship, music, and
worship!
Sign up sheet is in the foyer.

Married People Presents "Your Best Night Out"

DATENIGHT COMEDY

Sunday, Feb. 11
Time: 6:00-8:00pm
Tickets: \$20 per couple
Tickets available at
the Church Office.

*DATENIGHT
Comedy Tour*
2 Hour Comedy Event For Couples

Jonnie W
Ted & Nancie
Lowe

centralcommunity.church

Here at First Church of God we care about your family. A nursery is provided. We offer a coffee and donut time where parents can take a break from family duties and enjoy the fellowship of others. Come and join us this Sunday!



**First Church of God
704 N Jefferson
Hutchinson, KS 67501
620.662.6689**

Tim Kraft, Pastor
Terry George, Administrator
Tim Yates, Young Adult Pastor
Laine Alex Moore, Administrative Assistant
Glennis Joy Lamb, Administrative Assistant
Tim Nisly, Custodian



Psalms128ministry.com



Colossians 3:14-15
And above all these put on love,
which binds everything
together in perfect harmony.
And let the peace of Christ rule in
your hearts, to which indeed you
were called in one body. And be thankful.

Valentine's Day