

# newsletter



## *“Little Compromises”*

I love the United States of America. To me it is the greatest country in the world. May God bless America and may America bless God.

Sometimes compromises may seem little, but lead to big consequences.

A hunter closed in on a bear in thick brush, raised his rifle and took careful aim at the large bear. Just when the hunter was about to shoot, the bear spoke in a soothing voice; “Isn’t it better to talk than to shoot? What do you want? Let’s negotiate the matter.”

Lowering his rifle, the hunter replied, “I want a fur coat.” “Good,” said the bear, “that is negotiable.” “I only want a full stomach, so let’s negotiate a compromise.”

They sat down to negotiate and after a time the bear walked away alone. The negotiations had been successful. The bear had a full stomach, and the hunter had his fur coat.

The Bible is quite clear that we have an enemy who wants to steal, kill and destroy our lives. Jesus said exactly that in John 10:10 when he described the devil or Satan. Satan is a liar. So why do we pay any attention to him? Because he is slick, smooth, and very tempting. He knows our weaknesses and which buttons to push. But Jesus said he is a liar and when he speaks, he speaks his native language – lies. Did you know that the devil cannot make us do anything? He can’t. All he can do is lie to us and if we believe the lie, he’s got us hooked. The devil hates what God loves. The Bible tells us that God loves us. So Satan is trying to do everything he can to wreck our lives and turn us against God.

The devil likes to negotiate with us. He’ll tell us “you owe it to yourself.” “One more won’t hurt.” “Who will know?” “Everybody is doing it.” He loves to get us to make little allowances because they don’t seem like much at the time — one more drink, one more look, I’ll do it this time and that’s it — can make all the difference in the world. Take a boy and girl for instance: They both agree on how far to go, and to not have sex outside of marriage. But three buttons unbuttoned later is exactly where Satan wants them to be – just little allowances that started with just one button.

My friends, we live in a culture that invites all kinds of compromises and allowances. The culture doesn’t care if you ruin your health, marriage or your spiritual life, or all of them. Read Daniel, chapters 1, 2, and 3. Read how four young men didn’t compromise or make any allowances on their beliefs. It will give you strength and encouragement, plus it makes a great reading for your kids.

There isn’t one of us who wouldn’t like to do some things over again, but we can’t. We can however today, now, choose to honor our faith, our principles, our values and most of all God by not making allowances that oftentimes start out small and end up with life-long consequences.

In His Grip,  
Pastor Tim



*“If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”*  
II Chronicles 7:14



# Celebrating Freedom: Honoring Our Veterans

## July 2018



**Deloris Beaty:** Deloris is a very active part of the life here at FCOG but it hasn't always been that way. After going to Nursing school and spending time in Africa as a missionary, Deloris joined the Navy and then two years later transferred to the Air Force where she served our country as a nurse, and trained other Corpsmen who served in Vietnam. She served a total of 20 years in the military. Part of her service included taking care of the wounded and then the POWs. The military took her to the Philippines and then to Goose Bay, Labrador, which is a country north of Canada! She also spent two weeks in Korea where she worked at the 656 Mobile Hospital which was a MASH Unit. Her time on American shores included living in New Jersey where she got her military training. She served in Philadelphia at the Naval Hospital, and later in the states of Texas, New Mexico, and South Dakota. We are grateful that Deloris was so willing to serve our country in this capacity and for the lives that were saved and touched because of her selfless service to others! Thank you Deloris for your time of service to our country. Because people like you are willing to serve, we can enjoy our freedom!



**Gerald Belden:** Gerald was drafted and served in the Army for two years from 1953-1955. He was trained to serve in the counterfire platoon. His time in the service would take him far away from home as he was sent to Korea. When asked what his memories were he said it was pretty rough. When Gerald got to Korea, everything was blown apart. He got there toward the end of the war and was glad to return home. He said of his time in Korea that there was little entertainment, which would make your free time very boring and days very long. So often we watch shows like "MASH" on television but the reality was far different from what Hollywood portrays! Gerald, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your time of service. Without men who are willing to stand and fight, we would not have the freedoms we do today.



**Ray Harper:** Ray Harper joined the Navy and served our country from 1951-1955. He very much enjoyed his time in the military. He was trained as an aviation electrician and remarked to me, "I love to work on airplanes and I got to fly a lot, eight hours every day, five days a week." For part of that time he was also a flight radio operator. His skills would take him around the world. He was attached to the Fighter Squadron VF 43 out of Jacksonville, Florida and stationed on the USS. Coral Sea Aircraft Carrier. For a young man of eighteen years old, that was a thrilling experience! He loved traveling and enjoyed going to the French Riviera in the Mediterranean Sea. He went as far north as Yugoslavia which we know today as Croatia, Bosnia, and Slovenia. One of his favorite places to go was Athens, Greece, where he was able to visit the Parthenon. He also visited the islands of Crete and Sardinia. While in Cagliari, the capitol of Sardinia, he remarked that the people there weren't as friendly as in other places but at that point the war was just getting over so he said that was most likely the reason. His last two years in the military, he was stationed in Hutchinson where he met and fell in love with Ina. He knew that Hutchinson would now be home for him and hasn't left since. Ray said, "I enjoy the people at FCOG so much. They are just wonderful people. I look forward to seeing them every Sunday." A big thank you to you, Ray, for your faithful service to our country and all you did that helped secure America and the freedoms we still enjoy today!!



**Jesse Newton:** Jesse served in the Army for two years. He was trained at Fort Knox, Kentucky on tanks but when he was sent overseas he was put into an artillery unit. He served our country in far away Korea. He made the comment that, "It was my duty to serve, so I did it." Our thanks go out to Jesse for serving our country with a willing heart!



gilamb editor





# “ Memories ”

July 2018



Randy Lind

Something out of the ordinary happened a few days ago and that incident has caused me to reflect on a particular blessing of God that I, unfortunately all too often, take for granted. Some of you may have seen the news reports of the Catholic Church building in Andale, Kansas catching fire this past Sunday morning. With the exception of one year (from 2 years of age to 3 years of age), I spent all my growing up years in the small town of Andale and my family was an active part of the Roman Catholic Church located there.

After becoming an adult and being exposed to teaching that points out the doctrinal differences between Catholicism and Protestantism, I made the decision to leave the Catholic Church and, at that time, joined a Disciples of Christ Christian Church and then after moving to Hutchinson, joined the First Church of God. Despite my disagreement with some of the Roman Catholic doctrine, I still have fond memories of growing up in Andale and many of those memories are connected to my involvement in the church.

I first became aware that the church had burned when my brother sent a group text message out to me and my siblings showing pictures of the church in flames. We were all certainly shocked and saddened by this news. After the initial shock wore off something interesting happened. My five siblings and I started a text conversation reminiscing about events that we remember connected to the church. It turns out that several of my siblings had spent time in the upper part of the church steeple where the bells are located. My younger brother remembers he and a friend being up there when they were in junior high or early high school. They were sent up there by the priest to clean pigeon nests out. While they were up there they decided to “leave their mark” in the steeple and took a pencil and wrote their names in a variety of places on the timbers that were exposed. My brother remembers the scolding he got from the priest

when he found out about it.

There were a number of memories texted back and forth. Another memory had to do with the church being used for a short movie scene in the 1969 film, “Gypsy Moths”. I recall sitting in the choir loft with some of my siblings and a number of local town folks, watching as they filmed the movie scene inside the church. Gene Hackman was the actor that had come to Andale to shoot the scene. I remember the director of the movie parked his Ferrari on the sidewalk next to the church, with a security guard next to the car telling all us small town boys with gaping mouths, “You can look, but don’t touch.”

This incident, which created this flurry of communication between my siblings and me, reminded me that the life shared and experienced with my brothers and sisters was priceless. God saw fit to bless me with a wonderful family to share my childhood with. If you had asked me in 1969, I am sure I would not have thought my brothers and sisters were such a wonderful thing, but looking back on it and being able to share those memories with them now, changes the whole perspective.

It certainly is a reminder of what a gift the gift of relationship is and it should always be cherished and not taken for granted. And of course the greatest gift is the gift of our relationship with our Heavenly Father through His Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Randy



<http://www.kake.com/story/38494798/firefighter-hurt-in-andale-church-fire>





## Walk to a Lifeline

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

*11 Cor. 5:7*



# "What Have You Built?"

Glenn Koster July 2018

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:36)

As I walk this vast country of ours, I am constantly amazed by many of the buildings that I see. Some of these buildings have stood the test of time for centuries, while others are relatively new. Some are ornate, displaying the intricacies of wealth, personal taste, or creative design. Some are built for families, others to do business, and others simply to provide communities a space to come together. Yet many are simple structures with nothing to make them stand out.

As I walked yesterday I walked past a massive two-story home with ornate pillars on the front and elaborate trim designed to showcase the home’s comfortable porches on both the main and upper floors. The home is reminiscent of the Antebellum homes of the South or the Victorian homes of the East Coast. It has stood the test of time, having been build in 1910 and now registered on the National Register of Historic Homes

I walked past another out in the country that caused me to stop and do a double take as it was completely round, with a scalloped roof that undulated around the structure. Located amid the chaos of a simple farm, it is set squarely in the middle of other farm structures and within just a few feet of grazing cattle. Yet it provides a comfortable space from the surrounding hubbub.

Both buildings were designed for the same purpose – to protect people inside from what might be lurking outside, whether it be weather, animals, or other people. Both serve a very useful function and do it very well. They provide comfort and safety. They serve to also preserve the heritage of the home’s original designers.

Yet as I walk I am reminded that all too often we erect elaborate structures in our lives to protect us from the world. We build things in our lives to preserve what we cherish, some to our detriment. Buildings also separate us from each other. Many of the structures we erect often limit our freedoms. They are expensive to maintain, both in terms of dollars and time.

But the true structures that we erect are often not physical ones that others see. We do just as much to erect invisible structures – often for the same reasons. Yet these are the structures that limit our freedom.

Christ has set us free from such restrictive, invisible buildings. We are free to eradicate from our lives those things that constrict us or tie us to our past. And if Christ has set us free, we are free indeed. Celebrate that freedom. Explore. Feel secure in the new you. Enjoy what God has done. Tear down those structures in your life that limit your ability to serve Him!





# Faith Journey

## "Running A Race With Broken Ribs"

### Life Lessons from Psalm 91



By: *Glennis Joy Lamb*

*"With Lovingkindness Have I Drawn Thee"*

July 2018

Last night I got four hours of sleep. Before I went to bed, despite the late hour, I decided to listen to a sermon based on *Psalm 91*. It was life-changing as I let the familiar passage sink once again into my heart. It has also changed what I am going to write about. This is actually the third article I've written this month. The others can wait.

Before I listened to the sermon, I had read about an incredible act of bravery by the man who preached the sermon. I had asked a question in regard to a military exercise that had been posted on Facebook and my professor, also a Colonel, along with another military guy started talking about what it was like. If you can imagine breaking your ribs, then finishing an obstacle course and with those same broken ribs, finishing the most difficult military training I've ever read about (only 50 percent who try, make it!), then you can understand why I am blown away. With July 4th upon us, a big thank you to the men and women who have served in the military and the incredible sacrifices you have made to preserve our freedoms.

On to the sermon. Several years ago when my world was falling apart and I had to say goodbye to my first-born son, I memorized Psalm 91. The words brought peace and comfort to my breaking heart; this young man was my world, wired just like his mom. He was my "protector," always watching out for me, always wrapping me in arms of love; he was over six feet tall. He was quick to open the door no matter where we were (even including my car door) and as popular as he was, he wanted his friend to know that real men know how to treat women.

Joshua was a brilliant young man and had he lived, he would have changed his part of this world, but God in His love and mercy called my son by name, and in obedience my son answered that call and is now living with my precious Lord and Savior. July 4th 1999 will always be etched in my heart. I can tell you exactly what I was doing that day. I can tell you every small detail of what took place. A few months before that fateful day Josh came home with a little disposable camera. He proceeded to wrap me in his arms, then laid his head on top of mine and asked his dad to take our picture together, I carry that picture in my Bible. He told me that day that God was calling him home and he thought it would be soon. He then proceeded to kiss me on my forehead. (I'm so short he always kissed my forehead.) I'll never forget what he said to me, "Mom, I don't want you to ever forget how much I love you." My dear sweet Josh, I've never forgotten, I never will!!

Psalm 91 is so comforting. We can take shelter in the "Most High" (v.1). Think about that! Incredible!! A shelter is a place where we go to be safe. That place where we feel the **most** safe. We are safe from life's storms. In Kansas my mind goes to tornado shelters and the safety I feel when I'm in one and the storms are raging outside. The verse goes on to say that while we are in this shelter that God overshadows us. We are not only protected, but our Lord, in His love and mercy for us, brings us peace and comfort.

Then we learn about trust. We can trust our Lord because He is our Refuge and our Fortress. We aren't trapped; He is there to deliver us. He is faithful to us like a shield that protects us, only this shield is more efficient than the little medieval shields that are small and ineffective. This is a shield that surrounds us completely. We can rest at night without fear and we can rise during the day, knowing our God has this one. We have no reason to fear, we will NOT be destroyed.

Let the words of this Psalm sink deep into your heart. The Lord is our Refuge and our Dwelling Place is with the

Most High. If that is not good enough for you the Lord even charges His angels to keep a watch over us. They guard us and won't allow us to get hurt. We are loved passionately by our Lord and Savior. Think about that kind of amazing love. He will deliver us; we only need to "Call out to Him."

So by now you are probably wondering how I can read Psalm 91 and not wonder where my God was the day my son died? I will tell you. My God loved Joshua so much that on the day that was ordained to be my son's last day on earth, He was with our son every minute. His angels were watching over Josh, He was hurting with Josh, and He was comforting Josh. He then said, "Enough" and took Josh into His arms of love and care. Wrapping His arms around my son tightly and whispering, "Josh, you are home now and I won't ever let you go again. You, My child, will never have another day of suffering." That's the God I serve. That's the God I love. He is faithful to the end. Our dwelling place, our real home, is with the "Most High," and one day each of us will be ushered into His presence. Here are the words I wrote in my prayer journal last night:

*Dear Lord Jesus, the lover of my soul, I come before you weak and in need of your grace and mercy. When I think about how incredible some people are, overcoming unbelievable obstacles in their lives, finishing a race with broken bones and obviously in incredible pain, I feel so weak, so small, and so insignificant. May I have that same "warrior" mentality as I run life's race and may I do well. Lord, take anything of value that you see in me and use me to fulfill your purpose for my life on this earth.*

*Jesus, I love you more than life. I love you more than people. Sometimes I struggle so much I wonder how you could love me? Sometimes I'm so strong-willed and want to do things my own way, how can you see value in my life? Jesus I need you to wrap me in your arms of protection today. Be my refuge in life's storms. Take my heart and desires and change me from inside out so that I am shaped into the woman you want me to be. Pruning hurts Lord, but without it I can't bear the fruit you want from my heart and life. Lord as you prune me and I shed my tears, please walk with me through the process.*

*Lord speak your words of comfort and healing as I seek to know more of you, as I seek to walk in your ways and light. Help me to focus my eyes on your eyes, Lord. To see what you see. Lord, you know my heart, my struggles, my fears, and even the things that bring me joy. Shape each of these desires and turn them in to victory in Jesus.*

*Lord, I will never do big or important things in this world, just small little things in small little ways. Help me to be a light that brings "Joy" in this dark and hurting world. May others leave my presence with a smile on their face and joy in their hearts because I reflect you... Your Happiness, Your Joy, and Your Love!!*

May you blessed as you reflect on the Lord and His incredible love for you!



*In Christ's Love,  
Glennis Joy*



# “Glenn & Glenn”

## July 2018



Weekly I talk to Glenn and Charlcie and write out an update for the church on where they are, where they will be, and anything significant that has happened. As they got closer to Hutchinson I told Glenn I would make time to walk with him. My husband and I try to walk a few miles every day for exercise so we both thought we were up to the challenge.

The day finally arrived when Glenn would be walking in to Hutchinson. I went to work, quickly finished up the tasks at hand and then left early to get some much needed rest as I had been awake most of the night. At 11am. I got up and prepared to meet Glenn and Charlcie, my husband was still at work. I ate a light lunch and prepared water bottles for the walk. Charlcie dropped me off on Highway 50, close to Kent Road, where I met up with Glenn who was already in the middle of his walk. We would walk between eight to nine miles that day.

I let Glenn set the pace and I was delighted to find out he kept a slow steady pace; I’m always in a hurry so I usually walk fast. He explained to me that you can’t walk 20 miles a day if you are in a hurry. He would often stop and take a picture of something interesting or something that had caught his eye. The first mile is always the hardest and I was thankful when that was behind me but with Glenn along, the time was going by fast as he entertained me with his stories. My husband and I later walked from downtown to South Hutch and then from South Hutch to the Dutch Kitchen in Pleasantview with Glenn for a total of 18-plus miles. Glenn walks that far each day.

I’ve heard Glenn’s life story before but as we walked and talked, it became apparent to me that although we share the same name, Glenn and Glenn, we were from completely different backgrounds. The dysfunction and abuse he faced as a young child were appalling and completely foreign to me. My parents were both educators with Master’s degrees and my father was also a minister. I had been raised in a home where I was nurtured and loved. I was taught right from wrong at a young age and my parents lived out the discipline that they wanted us to have in our lives. I was given simple chores like making my bed before going to school and I took my turn at doing dishes, which usually amounted to once a week. On Saturday we always gave our home a good cleaning, caught up the laundry, and prepared for the week ahead. My spare time was spent reading, playing outdoors, working a puzzle with my dad, or reciting a school lesson as my father beamed at me with pride. I can’t possibly relate to parents who abandon and abuse their children. I can sympathize, listen, and even try to imagine what it would be like but it is not possible for me to actually relate as I didn’t live that life.

As I’m sitting at my computer and pondering the big question in life “why”, I realize that we each have our own crosses to bear. No, I wasn’t abandoned as a child and I can’t relate to that but that doesn’t mean my life was always roses. I faced some tough stuff at times. It was during those times that I grew the most. My daughter was born with a mild (I say mild because she’s not paralyzed) form of spinae bifida, my second child had severe asthma, and my third was accident prone, suffice it to say. My husband was in a horrific accident when I was pregnant with our third child (the doctor took me and my parents aside and prepared me for his death, although he ended up pulling through), and I almost died at the age of thirty. We lost our second born son in an accident at the age of 20, bringing grief and confusion to our then five year old son. The things in my childhood prepared me to face the things I have endured as an adult. God knew I needed parents who would nurture me and prepare me for the things I would one day face. God knows in advance what is best for us and what it will take for us put our trust and faith in Him. The way I was nurtured helped me to know how to nurture my hurting family when we were going through a time of crisis. The failures in my life helped me to be understanding when my kids failed.

It finally dawned on me that God is writing a story. He takes each one of us and allows us to go through trials that will shape and mold our lives, conforming us into His image. Sometimes we go through life’s trials victoriously and other times we fail. But the bottom line is that He is with us whether we fail or whether we come through with flying colors. He is faithful no matter what. So, if you see Glenn & Glenn walking down the highway, we are probably talking about how faithful our God is — we can both relate to that!

*GJLamb*





# July



# 2018

 <i>Sun</i>	 <i>Mon</i>	 <i>Tue</i>	 <i>Wed</i>	 <i>Thu</i>	 <i>Fri</i>	 <i>Sat</i>
<p>1 Common Ground 9:45 am.</p> 	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p>  <p>Prayer Group 9:30 am.</p>	<p>4 <del>4</del> 4<sup>th</sup> July Happy Independence Day Church Office Closed</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>Deloris Beaty</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>7</p> 
<p>8 Common Ground 9:45 am.</p> 	<p>9</p> 	<p>10</p>  <p>Prayer Group 9:30 am.</p> <p>Tim &amp; Mona Smith</p>	<p>11</p> 	<p>12</p> 	<p>13</p>  <p>Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>4<sup>th</sup> of July</p>
<p>15 Common Ground 9:45 am.</p> 	<p>16</p> 	<p>17</p>  <p>Council Meeting 6:30 pm. Prayer Group 9:30 am.</p> <p>Charlie Koster</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>4<sup>th</sup> of July</p>	<p>19</p>  <p>Terry &amp; Susie George</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p>  <p>Gerald Belden</p>
<p>22 Common Ground 9:45 am.</p> 	<p>23</p>  <p>Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Prayer Group 9:30 am.</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p> 	<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p> 
<p>29 Common Ground 9:45 am.</p> 	<p>30</p> 	<p>31</p>  <p>Prayer Group 9:30 am.</p>	 <h1>Thank You</h1> <p>for serving our country &amp; protecting our freedoms!</p>			

**First Church of God**  
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**620.662.6689**

Tim Kraft, Pastor

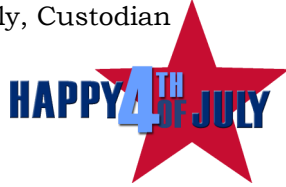
Terry George, Administrator

Tim Yates, Young Adult Pastor

Laine Alex Moore, Administrative Assistant

Glennis Joy Lamb, Administrative Assistant

Tim Nisly, Custodian



*How awesome is our LORD, King over all the earth!*  
*Psalm 47:2*

## **Celebrating Freedom: American Jewish Immigrants**

- Jewish Immigrants have been a part of America since colonial times.
- The Jewish colony in Charleston was the largest until the 1830's.
- In the 1850's, German Jews arrived and established clothing stores.
- The Ashkenazi Jews, who were Yiddish speaking, arrived in New York between 1880-1914 and founded the Zionist movement in America.
- Jews arrived in America after WWII and then in 1970, we saw Russian Jews arrive.
- Most Jews gravitated toward the Democratic party but recently we have seen a swing toward the more conservative parties.
- In 1940, Jews made up 3% of the American population.
- Today there are 6.5 million Jews living in America and they make up 2% of the current population. Because of intermarriages and nonobservance of their faith, and with a decline in family size, their numbers have decreased.
- European anti-Semitism has brought many Jewish families to America.
- The Jews have enriched our society with their wealth; they have the highest income of any ethnic group. Out of the 400 richest Americans, 100 of them are Jewish.
- They have also blessed us with their ingenuity. They have outdistanced other ethnic groups in education, inventions, and medicine.