



# FOCUS ON FAITH

The Monthly Newsletter of Faith Bible Church

Volume 1, Issue 2 | May 2015

## Five Minutes More, by Pastor Bob DeKlavon

### Highlights

- ◆ Join us for our annual Memorial Day Picnic at Manhattan Park on 5/25 at 12pm. See info on p. 3
- ◆ The Seniors of Faith are heading to Cedar Lake on 5/13 for Seniors' Day! More info on p. 3
- ◆ Don't forget about the new "Fighter Verse" section! Memorize Scripture and fight the good fight of faith. See p. 3.

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I have spoken before about going from good to excellent by taking 5 more minutes to do something. The thought first came to me from a book entitled, *The Pursuit of Excellence*. In thinking about this, I just began to consider the spiritual disciplines of our lives and what they could look like if we added just 'five more minutes.'

In five minutes...

- most people could read or listen to one more chapter of Scripture
- most people could memorize a verse of Scripture
- most people could write one note of encouragement to another person
- most people could pray for at least 10 different people
- most people could read 2 pages more in a book

...I think you get the idea.

It is when we translate this into our lives that we see the 'bigger' picture of all of this.

If God gives us another 10 years to live and we followed just five minutes more—think about what that would mean:

Add five minutes to read a chapter a day times ten years [plus 2 'extra days' for leap year] and you get 3,652 chapters. Just by adding 5 minutes a day to read—you would have read through the WHOLE BIBLE—THREE TIMES!

How about memorizing Scripture? If you memorized 3,652 verses over the next ten years you will have memorized about 40% of the New Testament. Just 5 minutes a day pursued as a discipline—amazing, isn't it?

Think about the encouragement that would be received over the next decade if you sent 3,652 notes of encouragement?! And that is just over what you may already be doing.

Imagine if we had a team of ten at Faith who made it their goal to write 'a note a day.' Over 10 years that would be 36,520 notes—just five minutes a day over and above what we already do.

In prayer—36,520 more people would be brought before the throne—just adding five more minutes a day.

If you determined just to read 2 pages a day of a theology or devotional book or a biography of someone you admire—you would read 730 pages a year—probably 2-3 more books just by adding five minutes a day.

So often—we believe that if we don't do the BIG thing then it isn't really worth doing much of anything. I am presuming that many reading this already do much of what I have mentioned above. But just imagine if we sought to 'excel still more' by adding just 5 minutes to what we are already doing? Amazing, isn't it, what could be done by the pursuit toward excellence of adding just 5 more minutes a day.■

If you would like to contact Pastor Bob, please email [pastor@faithbiblejoliet.com](mailto:pastor@faithbiblejoliet.com) or call the church office at 815-723-3212.

## Easter, Then What? by Pastor Kevin Fiske

**W**hat a joy it is to corporately celebrate the resurrection of Christ from the dead on Easter Sunday! As Paul says in 1 Cor. 15:3-4, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures..." In this season, we exult in the reality that Jesus has decisively dealt with the *penalty* and *power* of sin. As Jesus "died for our sin" so he paid the penalty of sin in full (cf. Rom. 4:25; 8:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13), and as Jesus was "raised on the third day" so he demonstrated that sin's greatest power, being death, had no final hold on him.<sup>1</sup> Yet, we often leave the work of Christ at this point, not considering that there is more to his incarnational work that ought to be of great encouragement to believers.

In Acts 1:6-11, we read the account of Christ's ascension. The ascension happens to be one of the most neglected aspects of *Christology* (*Christ* + *-ology* (the study of [a certain subject]) = "the study of the person and work of Christ"). After the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, in his resurrected *human* body, he ascended to the right hand of the Father and was given ultimate rule, power, and authority in heaven and on earth (cf. Dan. 7:13-14; Matt. 11:27; 28:18; John 3:35; Acts 2:36; Eph. 1:20-22; Phil. 2:9-10, et. al.). In his ascension to glory, we often fail to consider that it is in his *humanity* that Christ reigns in his kingly, exalted state. Jesus, being fully God and fully man, in one person, now rules from the Father's right hand, *in the same body that was raised from the dead*. Moreover, upon further reflection, we shall see that the ascension is tied to many deeply encouraging truths for the believer in Christ.

While space doesn't allow for an exhaustive treatment of the benefits and blessings of the ascension, I do want to briefly touch on 3 realities that ought to encourage the believer in Christ.

### 1.) Because Christ has ascended to the Father, so the Holy Spirit has been sent.

Jesus said, in John 16:7, "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper (i.e., the Holy Spirit) will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you." The Holy Spirit

indwells new covenant believers in Christ, applying the work of redemption to them, assuring them of Christ's presence, empowering them for service, sanctifying them in truth, and sealing them for the day of redemption—to name only a few of the Spirit's blessings.

### 2.) Because Christ has ascended to the Father, so he ever lives to make intercession for his people.

Hebrews 7:25 says, "Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them." John Owen defines Christ's intercession as "his continual appearance for us in the presence of God, by virtue of his office as the 'high priest over the house of God,' representing the efficacy of his oblation (atoning work), accompanied with tender care, love, and desires for the welfare, supply, deliverance, and salvation of the church."<sup>2</sup>

### 3.) Because Christ has ascended to the Father, believers can be assured of their future ascension to glory.

In Ephesians 2:4-6 we read, "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus..." Clark and Johnson note, "He entered heaven in the redeemed humanity into which we have been incorporated, securing a common inheritance for Head and members alike."<sup>3</sup> (cf. 1 Pet. 1:3-5)

Would that we understand, in increasing measure, the glories and blessings of the incarnation, and the beauty of the person and work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus! ■

<sup>1</sup> Bruce A. Ware, *The Man Christ Jesus: Theological Reflections on the Humanity of Christ* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 130-132.

<sup>2</sup> Accessed: <http://gavinortlund.com/2010/04/26/christs-intercession-exposition/> - Cited from Owen, *Exposition of Hebrews*, vol. 5, p. 541.

<sup>3</sup> John C. Clark & Marcus P. Johnson, *The Incarnation of God* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015), 152.

If you would like to contact Pastor Kevin, please email [kevin@faithbiblejoliet.com](mailto:kevin@faithbiblejoliet.com) or call the church office at 815-723-3212. Follow Pastor Kevin on Twitter: @kevinfiske



# MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC

Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> | Manhattan Park | 12pm

Join us as we gather to remember those who have given their lives to serve and protect our country. All are welcome to attend the Memorial Day Picnic at Manhattan Park. Coffee, lemonade, plates, napkins, cups, and cutlery will be provided. Singles, bring a dish to pass. Families of 2-3, please bring a dish and salad/dessert to pass. Families of 4+, please bring a dish, salad, and dessert to pass. More information and a sign-up sheet is available on the table outside the sanctuary. Please sign up no later than Sunday, May 24th.

Contact Xai or Andrew Pisha with questions, [pisha@faithbiblejoliet.com](mailto:pisha@faithbiblejoliet.com)

## WINGS

SPRING FRIENDSHIP POTLUCK

**SUNDAY, MAY 17<sup>th</sup>**

**12:30 PM**



**Please bring a side dish or dessert.**

Sign up at the WINGS Event Table. Meats will be provided. Questions? Email Mona Rendleman at [womensministry@faithbiblejoliet.com](mailto:womensministry@faithbiblejoliet.com), or call 815-723-3212.

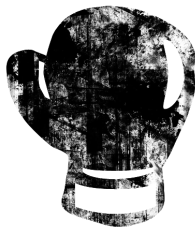
"WINGS" wants to be in prayer for all women of the church; praying with you for any and all requests, large or small. If you are struggling, know we are here to pray with you. WINGS (Women In God's Service)

## Cedar Lake Seniors' Day

Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

Join the Seniors of Faith (55+) at Cedar Lake Bible Conference Center to hear the story of Joseph of Arimathea and worship with Huntley Brown, pianist from Jamaica. The day's speaker will be Clayton Denton, Director of Drama at Faith Church.

The cost is \$28/person, which includes an amazing lunch buffet and ice cream dessert bar. Church van leaves at 8:30am. Sign-up at the SOF table. See Pastor Jay Fernlund with any questions, (815) 723-3212



[HT: DesiringGod]

## FIGHTER VERSE

Encouraging Believers to Fight the Good Fight of Faith through Scripture Memorization.

"Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations..." Deuteronomy 7:9, ESV

## MAY AT A GLANCE...

- 2 | Membership Class, 10am  
CEF Banquet at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 5pm
- 6 | Awana Awards Night, 6:30pm
- 10 | No PM Service/Bridge
- 13 | Seniors of Faith, Seniors' Day at Cedar Lake  
Awana Leaders Appreciation, 6:30pm
- 17 | WINGS Spring Friendship Potluck, 12:30pm
- 18 | Board of Trustees Meeting, 6:30pm
- 22 | June Newsletter Info Due
- 23 | Faith Builders Event, TBA
- 25 | Memorial Day Picnic, Manhattan Park, 12pm
- 27 | Missionary Fellowship Luncheon, FREE, 12pm

## LOOKING BACK AT FAITH LAST MONTH...

### Seniors of Faith

We enjoyed a delicious Sunday Sharing Meal in April at one of our favorite restaurants, the Lone Star in Channahon. We left with memories of excellent food and good fellowship. On the last Sunday of the month, Seniors of Faith were blessed by the all-church bluegrass gospel concert of *Just Over Yonder*. Two of the singers are sons of John and Joan DeVries. The Seniors of Faith also led the service at MorningStar Mission on the fourth Friday of the month.

### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to Brian and Alejandra Kiestler on the birth of Logan Kiestler, on Friday, April 17 (8 lb. 5 oz., 20 in.). Proud grandparents are Dave and Mary Kiestler. Proud aunts, uncles and cousins are Susan, Pastor Kevin, Gresham and Owen Fiske and Kristine and Mike Markley.

### LOST & FOUND

Susan Smith is looking for a gold ring that was lost (and possibly found) the day of her son's funeral. If you have any information about the ring, or know who may be in possession of it, please contact the church office at 815-723-3212.

## thank you

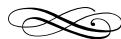
Dear Church Friends,

Thank you for your many cards and remembrances on my 97th birthday. I was overwhelmed with your thoughtfulness to me.

Love,

Lois McBurney

If you would like to express a word of thanks in the *Focus on Faith* Newsletter, please submit your note to [newsletter@faithbiblechurch.com](mailto:newsletter@faithbiblechurch.com) or contact the church office at 815-723-3212.



## Notable Quotables...

"The *fountain* of divine truth is the Lord Jesus Christ, the *repository* of divine truth is the Holy Scriptures, the *proper abode* of divine truth is the sinner's heart, and the *sacred revealer* of truth is the Holy Spirit."

-James Smith, *The Way of Salvation Set Forth*

# MINISTRIES AT FAITH

"Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ." Colossians 1:28, ESV

We have a variety of ministries designed to serve your family, and see each person press on toward maturity in Christ Jesus. Below are a few of the regularly recurring ministries at Faith.

## Sunday School | Sundays, 9:30am (all ages)

Come early and join us in the Fellowship Hall, at 9:00am, for Coffee Connection!

### Current Classes:

Nursery Available

**4yrs - Grade 5:** *Gospel Project for Kids* | Rick Lindgren & Pastor Bob DeKlavon

**Jr./Sr. High:** *Topical Study*, Youth Rm. | Bob Coon

**Adult Class:** *Life and Times of Elijah*, Rm. 121 | Mike Fox

**Adult Class:** *Teaching in the Gospel of John*, Fellowship Hall | Tom Scott

**Adult Class:** *The Gospel Project*, Choir Rm. | Andrew Pisha

**Adult Class:** *'Faith' in Hebrews & 1 Corinthians*, Rm. 114 | Don Horschler

**\*If you have any questions regarding Sunday School at Faith, please email our Sunday School Superintendent, Bob Coon, at [sundayschool@faithbiblejoliet.com](mailto:sundayschool@faithbiblejoliet.com)**

## FBC Kids Ministry

During the 10:45am Worship Service

Nursery (Birth - 3yrs): Please see Pastor Kevin or Susan Fiske with any questions: [nursery@faithbiblechurch.com](mailto:nursery@faithbiblechurch.com)

Children's Church (4yrs - K): *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, Georgia Spearman: [childrenschurchpre@faithbiblejoliet.com](mailto:childrenschurchpre@faithbiblejoliet.com)

Children's Church (Grade 1- 4): Please see Steve Fox with any questions: [childrenschurchelem@faithbiblejoliet.com](mailto:childrenschurchelem@faithbiblejoliet.com)

**\*ALL THOSE SERVING within the Kids Ministry at Faith are required to have a background check and abide by the child protection policy and procedures.**

## Awana®

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm | Contact Rick Dobczyk  
[awana@faithbiblejoliet.com](mailto:awana@faithbiblejoliet.com)

## GOOD NEWS CLUBS

Times Vary | Contact Mike Fox  
[cef@faithbiblejoliet.com](mailto:cef@faithbiblejoliet.com)

## SOULFIRE

(Jr./Sr. High Students)

Fridays, 7pm | Contact Pastor Kevin or Bob Coon  
[soulfire@faithbiblejoliet.com](mailto:soulfire@faithbiblejoliet.com)

## BRIDGE

(Young Adults [18-30])

Sundays, 7:15pm | Contact Pastor Kevin  
[kevin@faithbiblejoliet.com](mailto:kevin@faithbiblejoliet.com)

## Seniors of Faith (55+)

Times Vary | Contact Pastor Jay Fernlund  
[seniorsofffaith@faithbiblejoliet.com](mailto:seniorsofffaith@faithbiblejoliet.com)

## WINGS

(Women In God's Service)

Times Vary | Contact Mona Rendleman  
[womensministry@faithbiblejoliet.com](mailto:womensministry@faithbiblejoliet.com)



## Church Library

May: Sunshine, flowers, new gardens AND a good book or two!! Visit your church library! Questions?  
Contact Gwen Sidebottom [library@faithbiblejoliet.com](mailto:library@faithbiblejoliet.com)



## News & Updates

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The annual **Awana Kite Picnic** was held at Faith Bible Church on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. There were approximately 65 people in attendance. It was a beautiful day, sunny and warm. The wind speed, however, was low, so it was a challenge for many to get their kites flying. After sharing a lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, and all kinds of picnic food, **Rick Dobczyk** gave a devotion what's needed to enter heaven: an invitation and the righteousness of Christ. Following this a paper airplane contest was held in the Fellowship Hall. **Iyatta Franklin** won the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and under competition. **Ray Vasec** won for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older division. **Jack McMillan** won the adult division.

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, the **Awana Awards Night** will be held at the church for clubbers and their families and friends beginning at 6:30 p.m. We would also like to invite our church family if they would like to see and hear what is being accomplished by the Lord in Awana. Music, a slide show and a message from our pastoral intern, **David Wisdom** will preface our awards presentation. We will then continue the celebration in the Fellowship Hall with an ice cream social.

An **Awana Leaders Appreciation Dinner** is being planned for May 13<sup>th</sup> at Cemenos Restaurant, in Joliet. We are so thankful for the commitment Awana leaders make each year. We are delighted to recognize our leaders and show our appreciation in this way for their dedication to the Lord's calling and their faithful service.

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# Missionary Corner

By Dr. Jay Fernlund,  
Mission Commission  
Secretary

Many of us remember Wanda Reid, wife of Richard Reid who served as our interim pastor in 2008 before God called him home to heaven. Wanda is now married to Forrest Zander, a Wycliffe missionary. Forrest has published an exciting, true-story of his life as a jungle missionary pilot. Here are some readers' comments:

"If you want an inspiring account of how God can use a man who has his heart set upon serving Christ, no matter the cost, you must read *His Faithfulness Reaches to the Skies*. . . . You are meeting the real Forrey in this book, fun loving, yet serious about his life with Jesus. . . . *His Faith-*

*fulness Reaches to the Skies* is a significant read. You will laugh at times and weep at times. Throughout, you will see God's faithfulness to the Zanders as well as their faithfulness to God's call upon their lives. . . . You will find it hard to put the book down. . . . Forrey Zander puts readers in the co-pilot's seat for one of the most harrowing-and important-jobs in all of missions: that of the aviators who transport people, food and supplies into and out of the most remote and dangerous places on earth. . . . If you love missions, you will love this book. . . . Forrest Zander writes as he has lived--passionately for Jesus Christ. What a book, what an adventure, what a life, what a Savior!!!"

To order *His Faithfulness Reaches to the Skies*, go to [wwwcreatespace.com/5348918](http://wwwcreatespace.com/5348918) ■



## MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Join us for a free lunch, and hear of the work God is doing through a missionary supported by Faith Bible Church...

Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

12pm

PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE. See Don Horschler with questions.  
Email: [missionaryfellowship@faithbiblejoliet.com](mailto:missionaryfellowship@faithbiblejoliet.com), or call 815-723-3212

## COMMUNITY CLOTHING CLOSET



New and gently used clothing is available to those in need through Faith Bible Church's Community Clothing Closet.

Visits to the Community Clothing Closet are by referral and appointment only.

For more information, please email [cccjoliet@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cccjoliet@sbcglobal.net), or call the church office at 815-723-3212

"If you want an inspiring account of how God can use a man who has his heart set upon serving Christ, no matter the cost, you must read *His Faithfulness Reaches to the Skies*."

-Dr. J. Paul Nyquist, President,  
The Moody Bible Institute

For more information about Forrest Zander's book, or to order a copy, please see Pastor Jay's "Missionary Corner" column above.





# FAITH

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Faith Bible Church is a member of the Evangelical Free Church of America.  
For more information about the EFCA, please visit [efca.org](http://efca.org)

## Pastors & Staff

Bob DeKlavon, Senior Pastor

Kevin Fiske, Associate Pastor of Worship & Discipleship

Jay Fernlund, Visitation Pastor

Sharon Coon, Secretary

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One church.

Five generations.

Gathered by the Spirit.

Exalting the person and work  
of Christ, to the praise of the  
Father's glorious grace.

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE