

The Vine

I am the vine; you are the branches...John 15:5

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

September 2013

OUTREACH 11TH ANNUAL FREE SCHOOL SUPPLY WRAP-UP

Saturday, July 27th, God blessed the “free” school supply project with 60 volunteers from different churches, organizations and businesses to reflect His love to meet the needs of others. The fruits of the spirit were in everyone as they worked side by side to meet the needs of many thankful families.

Thanks to all of you who helped in anyway through prayer, giving of your time, monetary gifts, donating supplies and clothing, hauling supplies and for the food and anything we forgot to mention!!!!

Set up on Friday night was possible with 30 volunteers arriving to sort and set up supplies. Then on Saturday morning we discovered that families started arriving as early as 5:30 AM! The door was open at 8:00 AM until 11:00 AM and there were 357 students that came to pick up supplies. Families are still making request for supplies, making our total over 370 students.

Here are just a few of the items given away:

Book Bags- 355
Pink Erasers-667
Pencils-6224
School Boxes-162
Glue Sticks-877
Crayola Markers-156
3-Ring Binders-30
Wide Notebooks-558
College Notebooks-173
Pocket Folders-1022
Wide Paper-309
College Paper-189
Socks-1043 pairs
Briefs-863 pairs

This is a year long project and we are starting today to get ready for July 26, 2014. We are accepting supplies now!

Again, we just thank God and we give Him all the praise and glory.



Trials and Temptations

It seems I have been confronted, either directly or indirectly, with the hurts of so many other people in the last few weeks. Also, our Sunday morning bible study, When Life Is Hard, is about facing our trials. [By the way, this is has been a really good study and each reader is now formally invited to join us!] Put that all together and the pain and suffering of our people has really been on my heart.

So I have been praying about this and trying to sort it all out with the Lord. In my research, I ran across a blog post in which a pastor talked about the saying “God won’t give you any more than you can handle.” He said basically (in much saltier language) that the saying was hogwash. He claimed people have taken 1 Corinthians 10:13 and made it to say something it doesn’t. So in the little space I have here, I want to examine that. Does God give us more than we can handle?

First I must sympathize with the author of the blog. He has gone through a really hard time. In the span of a few months – maybe even weeks, he had been hit with trial after trial. It was gut-wrenching for his family with many tears shed. Yes, he said, God had given him more than he could handle.

First let’s look at 1 Corinthians 10:13. *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

To be sure, this verse is talking about temptations and not trials. So does that falsify the statement “God won’t give you more than you can handle?” Remember that many temptations come during our trials. Temptations to blame God and abandon God, to blame others or to give up. We might be tempted to give in to our anger and lash out at others because of our own circumstances.

First, no temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. There is nothing new under the sun. Whatever you are going through, someone else has already been there. There are, at their root, no new temptations.

Next, God is faithful. Whatever happens, He will never leave you nor forsake you. Not only will he never leave you, but the verse goes on to say that he will not allow you to be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape. Who provides the way of escape? God does. The message in this verse is that you will not be tempted beyond your ability because God is giving you the way out, not because you have some special ability on your own.

Finally, does this mean the temptation goes away? Not necessarily. Your escape is the escape from sin if you give into the temptation; it is the ability to say no to sin and yes to God even if the temptation remains. God gives you the ability so you are able to endure it.

To bolster his argument, the blogger cited 2 Corinthians 1:8-9. *⁸For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.*

Paul talks about his suffering and says that they were burdened beyond their strength. That sure sounds like God allowed more than they could handle, doesn’t it? They even despaired of life. If we could handle what God allowed, then we surely wouldn’t think we were on death’s door, would we?

Take a look at verse nine, however. Paul says the reason for this was to make them rely on God. The implication there is that when we can’t handle trials or temptations, God can. The context of the 2 Corinthians 1 is that God comforts us in our suffering – we get through it because of Him! The blogger confesses in his post that when we are weak, the strength of Christ is able to shine through.

(continued on back page)

Recipe Swap

PEANUT BUTTER BARS WITH CHOCOLATE CHIPS

1-1/2 c. flour
1-1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt
3/4 c. smooth peanut butter
1 stick unsalted butter, softened
1 c. light brown sugar, packed
3/4 c. sugar
3 large eggs, lightly beaten
1 T. vanilla
3/4 c. miniature chocolate chips
1-1/2 c. semi sweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350*. Line a 9x13 inch baking pan with non stick foil and lightly spray with nonstick cooking spray. In a small bowl sift together flour, baking powder and salt. In a medium bowl, cream together peanut butter, butter, brown sugar and sugar. Add eggs and vanilla, beating until combined. Add dry ingredients to peanut butter mixture and stir until combined. Add miniature chocolate chips and stir until incorporated. Pour into prepared pan and bake for 25-30 minutes. Remove from oven and immediately cover the top with the semi-sweet chocolate chips. Let chocolate stand until softened, then smooth evenly over the top. Let cool completely before cutting. Makes about 2 dozen bars, depending on the size.

PRAYER REQUESTS

OUR SOLDIERS: Jacob Mitchell, Curtis Mitchell, Brandon Miller, Ryan Myers, Luke Cummings, Greg Morales, Ryan Kirby, Zach Stiffler, Josh Lackey, Dan Cook, Rick Heuertz, Steve Heinen, Ammin Spencer, Gates Kobuszewski, Leslie Bolz, Steve Grove, Austin Everhart, Noe Garza, Brandon Hammons, Ruth Churchill

COPIES OF THE SERMONS ARE AVAILABLE ON CD UPON REQUEST: If you would like a copy please see Mike. You can also listen to them online at www.valleyfallsc.org.

POCKET CHANGE FOR PROGRESS: This will be a special offering every 3rd Sunday during church. The money will be split between Mission Lake Camp and the School Supply Giveaway Fund

RECYCLING: We have a recycling box beside the copier in the office.

COLLECTING FOR ALPHA: Alpha Christian Children's Home can use Campbell soup UPC labels and lids, Best Choice UPC labels and General Mills Box Top Symbols coupons (Box Tops for Education.) We will have a box in the hallway outside the nursery under the mailboxes.

SISTERS OF STRENGTH (S.O.S.)-

(Mission Statement: We are a lifeline to glorify God through service to the church and community and to build personal relationships with our Christian Sisters.)

We will not be having our regular meeting until?

Birthdays and Anniversaries

3 Jay Farr
7 Ray Mitchell
Elaine Wornor
13 Dawson Branam
18 Dee Bayless
19 Marvin Cummings
21 Jaxson Temm
25 Kyle Reich
27 Kevin Gatzemeyer
28 TREY WATKINS

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)

Serving in SEPTEMBER

Congregational Prayer:

Clint Thomas

Scripture Readers:

1-Thomas-Romans 8:26-27
8-Anna Kirby- Romans 8:28-30
15-Grove- Romans 8:31-34
22-Mitchell- Romans 8:35-39
29- Turner-

Nursery:

1-Debbie Gerstner
8-Laura Reich/Caitlyn Thomas
15-Carol Welborn/Jarret Mitchell
22-Sarah Hollis/Nik Branam
29-Nancy Gatzmeyer

Greeters/Ushers:

1-Thomas
8-Kirby
15-Grove
22-Mitchell
29-Turner

Lord's Supper Preparation:

1-Thomas
8-Kirby
15-Grove
22-Mitchell
29-Turner

Communion Table:

1-Stan, Jay
David Grove, Andy Arnold
8- Jay, Stan
Steve Carson, Cylus Tichenor
15- Stan, Jay
Dennis Tichenor, Jarret Mitchell
22- Jay, Stan
Ray Mitchell, Andy Arnold
29-Stan, Jay
Dennis Turner, Cylus Tichenor

Musicians

Worship Leader: Mike Kirby
Organ: Leah Brown
Piano: Donetta Farr
Guitar: Mike Kirby, Clint Thomas
Mandolin: Erin Thomas

Church Offerings

July 28-\$981.87

Aug. 4-\$1972.13

Aug. 11-\$2480.00

Aug. 18-\$1451.00

Our expenses average \$1500 a week.

Valley Falls Christian Church has a website!!

www.valleyfallsc.org

MEN'S BREAKFAST: The men's breakfast will be on Sept. 7th at 8:00 AM. Steve Carson will be cooking.

EYEGASSES: We now have a box in the foyer to put spare glasses in for missions. The lions club collects them and is able to reuse them in other countries that desperately need them. If you have any questions please ask Stan or Donetta.

BIBLE STUDY: Bible Study will start up again on Sept. 4th at 7:00 PM.

BOARD MEETING: The board meeting will be on Wed. Sept. 11th at 8:00 PM.

CAMP NEWS:

Jr./Sr. High Fall retreat will be Sept. 20-22.

The Mission Lake Christian Camp Annual meeting will be Sept. 22 at 3:30 PM, at the camp.

There will be a Mission Lake Christian Camp work day on Sept. 28 from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM. Lunch will be provided.



2013		SEPTEMBER					2013	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
1	2 	3	4 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	5	6	7		
2:00 PM Service at Midland	Labor Day							
8	9	10	11 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Board Meeting	12	13	14  8:00 AM Men's Breakfast		
5:00 PM Youth Group								
15	16	17	18 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study 8:00 PM Elders	19	20  Fall Retreat at Mission Lake Camp	21  Lake Camp		
5:00 PM Youth Group								
22 10:00 AM Pocket Change for Progress 3:30 PM Annual Meeting at MLCC 7:00 PM Youth Group	23	24	25 6:15 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM Bible Study	26	27	28 8:00 AM-4:00 PM Work Day at MLCC		
29	30	31						
5:00 PM Youth Group								

Valley Falls
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On the web: www.valleyfallsc.org
Find us on Facebook!

Mike Kirby, Pastor

You are welcome to join us!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Service times:

Bible Study (all ages) – 9:00 AM
Worship – 10:00 AM
Youth Group – 5:00 PM

Midweek Bible Study:

Wednesday 7:00 PM

(Trials and Temptations continued)

What kind of power is available from God to help us? Paul says he relies on God who raises the dead. The same power that brought Jesus out of the grave, the same power that ushers us into the presence of Christ when we breath our last and the same power that will give us new, glorified bodies is available to us right now to help us in our pain. Cry out to Him!

My heart is hurting because I see others hurting. If someone tells you that God won't give you more than you can handle, please don't let it hurt you more. Give them the benefit of the doubt and trust that they are being sincere and not offering empty words. I think we can also trust that the message they are conveying is that God won't give you any more than you can handle – **as long as you are relying on God to get you through it!** Another way of saying this is **God doesn't give you any more than HE can handle.** God doesn't expect us to do it on our own, because he knows we can't.

While we trust God in our trials, let's also pray for each other's trials. Pray that God heals the broken hearted that are right here among us in His church. You don't have to know who they are. God does. Lift up your brothers and sisters to him. Pray that He will put the broken pieces back together as a testimony to His power, love and grace. That way, as we go through our trials and when we come out on the other side refined and purified, we can give all the glory to God.

Mike