

THE WINDOW

On a journey with the living Christ; connecting with God, others, and the world.

June 2021

GRACE THE GEARS by Andy Hamer, Pastor

Love was one of the defining marks of the early Church as it spread throughout the ancient world. This was of course, how Jesus designed it, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another," (John 13:35). We see this love evidenced in the grace that pervaded the New Testament Church. Grace was received through the death and resurrection of Jesus and was shared back-and-forth between believers.

To be clear, we're not thinking about perfection here – the early Church was far from perfect. Rather, the early Church revealed supernatural grace as believers dealt with their human imperfections. These are the same human imperfections that we all know well; we've seen them fracture communities and dilute mission. Yet the New Testament shows us how receiving and sharing God's grace can actually create community and galvanize mission – even in the grittiest of situations. We're living through the early stages of recovery from some very gritty times. As our own communities begin to piece themselves back together, what role will grace play?

We've begun to take stock of what we've learned and what we've lost in the past 16 months. As we try to make more sense of our surrounding world, we may be tempted to oversimplify complex situations. This can make it easier for us to identify people who belong in our "blame box". We allow them to take the responsibility for the mess we've all lived through, and thereby we can also blame them for the messy way in which we lived it.

Let's peel back the lid of our blame box and see who's in there. Many of us have identified one or more groups of people that should have responded faster, communicated better, led stronger, complained less, done more, taken more risk or reduced risk altogether. Additionally, we know people who agreed with these offending groups, so they also might have slipped into the blame box. Now, we find the box crowded with pundits and neighbors, politicians and people from church, coworkers and family, friends and strangers.

Here's how all this can really affect our progress as we start to recuperate from our recent turmoil. If someone ends up in our blame box, we don't really want to let them out until they admit their wrongs or at least tell us that we're right. But in most of these cases, we're never going to get that kind of satisfaction. So here we are taking our first steps toward recovery, but we're dragging these heavy boxes full of blame, bitterness, isolation, and grief. We want to move on, but we don't feel like we can. The gears of our progress are all locked up.

This isn't cause to beat ourselves up; these are just human imperfections showing up in a very gritty situation. It's also another opportunity to bring our faith to bear in the real world around us. As we continue our own journey of healing, or walk alongside others, there are some questions that might point us toward grace. How does carrying this load of blame help me or God's mission? Jesus taught us to love our enemies; who does that benefit?



In these early days of recovery, individuals and congregations need to reexperience the grace flowing from the death and resurrection of Jesus. We need to live out the grace that radically transformed the lives of those early believers 2000 years ago. It was grace that set them apart, and it was grace that drew so many others to faith in Jesus.

IT'S IN GOD WE TRUST by Mike Overby, Elder for Finance



Hello faithful friends of WHC. My guess is that we all have a few stories about our experiences with our finances and with money in general, some favorable and some left better unshared. We learn these lessons as we do 'life'; from an early age, through those informative years, as we enter those stages with our partners/families and certainly continuing as we progress forward into the second halves of our lives. The paths of those life lessons are different for each of us.

Learning comes from different directions. I've registered for and completed a number of courses in business, economics, accounting, and Finance 101 I'm sure was part of the curriculum I studied while at college. You would always look at the course description to gain some insight on the general content of the course and determine what you might be learning in the class. The courses became more informative (and challenging) as you advanced to 200-level, then the 300s and finally through 400s. At the end, hopefully you became well-disciplined in the subject, graduated and used this new knowledge to get started on the next phase of your life. Even then, in my opinion, there was a vast difference in being 'book smart' and being aware of some of the basic common sense concepts/knowledge that one obtains and lives by over your lifetime. Speaking of the latter, those lessons are acquired outside of academia, more of the 'down to earth education' and frequently are passed down generationally. It is here that I thought I might share a few thoughts.

My parents both were both born at the end of the Great Depression. Their families endured the hardships and challenges of these times. They had very little, they wasted very little, but they had each other and believed God would provide. I recall stories at dinner what life was like for my grandparents and for my parents when they

were young. Money had a different meaning then. This is where I first heard of the "three Ss"; Spending, Sharing, and Saving. It was prioritized in this order that they spent what was needed, they shared with others less fortunate and they saved for a rainy day. I'm not sure how well received this message comes across today in a world that is focused on having everything 'now' in a self-serving culture.

We can also learn from others. I began to think of that era and if there were any insightful thoughts to share tied finance fundamentals that were successfully applied. The following quote came to the surface, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." For the historians in the congregation this came from President Teddy Roosevelt in the early 1900s and can be applied to many facets of our lives personally, corporately and as a congregation. I've heard it said that the family that cannot manage on little cannot manage on much.

In the short period of time I've been on session serving as your Elder of Finance I believe WHC actively aligns with these outlooks. I believe these to be foundational concepts to live by and grant us comfort as we continue to move forward and join God where He has laid out a plan for WHC in the future.

So now, you might ask about the Morgan Silver Dollar above. I have this exact coin in my desk at home minted in 1900. That makes this coin 121 years old. It's 90% silver. It's solid. This was given to me from my father, who received it from his father. While there is no particular story to the coin I think about the coin often. Sure it spends today for only \$1.00. From a savings perspective it's worth \$30-\$35 at most should I sell the coin to an investor. However, for the lessons I learned from prior generations the coin is priceless. The coin rests on my checkbook, "eagle side up". As I look at the bank balance, before I write out a check, and for all that I've been blessed with this coin reminds me, in the small print, it's "**In God we trust**" that carries me (and I hope all of us) forward with finance issues, for all of our life issues and through Him provides for our needs. A thought I choose to share with the next generation(s) as I'll pass the coin onward.

June At A Glance

At West Hills our mission statement . . . On a journey with the living Christ; connecting with God, others and the world, provides us with the framework for how we live our lives. Even though life is different now, and we're connecting in new and different ways, here are notable dates this month in the life of our church.

Sundays in June - Livestreaming and in-person worship service @ 10 a.m. Post service fellowship outside in the prayer garden following worship. For those who won't be joining in-person, you can watch the service at: whcomaha.org/live

June 5 - West Hills Block Party for the Westgate neighborhood supporting our local mission partner, Heartland Hope Mission.

June 6 - Kids Connect Small Groups & Youth 406 Journey Groups begin at 9 a.m. meeting in-person and outside.

June 7 - YOUTH MONDAY FUNDAYS begin 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. (various locations/activities)

June 9 - Women's Wednesday Bible study begins at 9:30 a.m. in the prayer garden. Studying Psalms- Prayers of the Heart by Eugene Peterson

June 9 - 406 Youth Group meet at 6:30 p.m. in-person and outside.

June 12 - VBS Family Fun Day 9:00 - 12:30 p.m. Games, activities, stories and much more!

June 13 - Serendipity Bible study begins on the book of Acts at 9:00 a.m. in the chapel

JUNE 17 - Sloppy Joe Ministry Drop Off at the church. Come between 10-3 to the north circle drive and drop your cooked sloppy joe meat and buns in the bins located outside. The food will be taken to the Stephen Center to be enjoyed by many!

Whispers, Wiggles, and Wonder in Worship

It is a joy to our West Hills family to gather with all generations to worship Jesus. We believe that God put wiggles and giggles in His small image bearers, and He is neither offended nor distracted by sound and movement, but delights in their presence. So do we! Beginning on June 13, if you find your young child needs a little more space than the pew provides and you'd like to step out for part of the service, the big room of the nursery will be open and available for you to use with your child. There will be a few quiet toys, the service will be livestreamed into the room, and you are welcome to use this space until your child is ready to return to the sanctuary. We are thankful for creative ways and spaces that we can enjoy worshipping together as the family of God in all ages and stages!

HAPPINESS IS CASSEROLE MINISTRY by Myrtle Heise, Deacon of Practical Needs



Philippians 2: 1-4: *Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

There is scientific evidence that there is a correlation between giving and happiness. In an article "The Neuroscience of Giving" by Dr. Eva Ritvo¹, the neurochemical drivers of happiness Dopamine, Serotonin and Oxytocin, make up the *Happiness Trifecta*. Giving allows us to secrete all of these chemicals. Giving makes us happy. Helping others makes us and the receiver happy. West Hills people are very generous with their support.

West Hills casserole ministry has changed due to Covid and changes to our culture. We, as a church, are still able to provide food for people in need.

We have started using Meal Train. Meal Train is a website that allows an organizer to coordinate volunteers to provide meals for someone in need. The website allows the organizer to set up which days meals should be provided, food preferences, and ideal drop off times. Meal Train is an interactive site. It allows the recipient to receive information on the day and time food will be delivered. It also emails reminder alerts to the provider. If food preparation is not your strong suit, other options

are available. Options are digital gift cards for Grub Hub, DoorDash, restaurants and some retail stores. Cash donations can also be available.

I have organized one successful MealTrain to date. If you know of a person coming home from the hospital after surgery or with a new baby, please let me know. We can all be happy.

¹ The Neuroscience of Giving - Proof that helping others helps you. by Dr. Eva Ritvo. posted in Psychology Today. April 24, 2014

SPIRITUAL CORRESPONDENCE

by Jana Prescott



OK, Jesus, June is upon us. More sunshine when we truly need the sun! More flowers! The trees have green leaves and are beautiful! The Covid virus is slowly beginning to wane. I've been hearing that it's upward

climb is slowly becoming more of a downward trend. So I thank you all for your prayers, and I ask you to please continue them. We can do more: see friends...eat outside in restaurants in small groups... have really small groups at home. We all just need to hang in here, and keep our prayers for God to be with us on the top of our list. Jesus is always with us, through easy times and tough times. As we heard Sunday, God will always know what's coming on the horizon, so we just need to keep praying, knowing that the Holy Spirit is our safe place. We just need to keep Him in our hearts, and keep following Him as He knows what we need. He is always with us!

RETURNING TO CHURCH 2021 by Gloria Zinn

It was such a shock when our church closed due to the Pandemic. We learned to adjust, however, and found the online church service gave us what we needed at that time. However, since the CDC has been lifting many of the restrictions we have been following for over a year, we now are able to return to in-person worship. Each week West Hills has had a steady increase in attendance, growing from 48 in-person worshipers on April 2, to 95 a month later. Over the past 6 weeks we have been averaging 85 in-person worshipers, and the atmosphere in the church has been electric!

During the last two Sundays many have gathered after the service for coffee and conversation, and no cocktail party could compare with the laughter and chatter as everyone greeted “a long-lost friend,” as one member commented. Why have some members returned to church and others remain online? Peg Shirley shared that worshipping online “was a great option, but it just didn’t give me what I needed. I truly believe that the members of West Hills are members of my family and not seeing them for a year was torture. Each week it has been exciting to see more members return and be able to say hello, even if no hugs are allowed. The church is not a building, it is the people who go to church there, and I am so glad to be back and see those faces.”

It was good to see Bill Spiecker bringing some of the Westgate Assisted Living residents to church, as he had previously done before the Pandemic. Watching a number of members come over to these women, where they were sitting, and greeting them with so much love and warmth gave one a feeling of the “family” Peg had described. What a pleasure to see Jana Prescott, out of her wheelchair and walking with the assistance from her sister Julie, and brother-in-law Steve Burgess . . .with that ever pleasant big smile on her face! Nancy Anderson said her reason for returning to in-person worship was “not the same as watching the service on Zoom. I missed seeing everyone, and I love that attendance is increasing. Easter Sunday brought so many members back in-person, and I hope to see the church just as crowded as Easter Sunday.” So why do some members not return to church? One online church member shared that “after working all week, staying home and watching the service online gives me the opportunity to get a lot of work done on Sunday instead of having to get ready to go to church.”



According to the Bible we are instructed to be in relationship with other believers. You may not even be aware how your presence makes such a difference to others who are sitting around you. The church is the place where we come together to encourage one another as members of Christ’s body, and that may be just being present in a pew sitting near other believers. Les Peterson’s comments on returning to church reflect a very similar view: “The church building to some is just a building, but I have always felt that the building is a spiritual setting where I can feel that Jesus is present. The important thing is that we are back together and I pray that we can continue to gather in the most spiritual setting I know, West Hills.”

One can almost be reminded of all the Christians in other countries who are not allowed to worship together. However, we should also be aware that there are some of our members who have valid health problems which prevent them to return to in-person worship at this time. They are able to worship each Sunday online, and that is a wonderful and safe option for them until they are able to return to in-person worship.

If you are able to return to church we encourage you to do so and are reminded that the one we follow, Jesus Christ, attended church as a regular practice. Luke 4:16 tells us: “He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read.” If Jesus made it a priority to meet together with other believers, shouldn’t we, as His followers, do the same? Hebrews 10:25 is a good reminder on the importance of in person worship: “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

A GROWING CHURCH - RECOGNIZING 35 YEARS OF THE SANCTUARY BUILDING

West Hills Church opened its doors in 1960 and almost immediately it became evident that an expansion was needed. The Westgate neighborhood, as well as other new neighborhoods developed at that time in the area brought a large number of families to West Hills. Between 1962-1972 a very needed education wing was added as well as two offices and a smaller version of the Geneva Lounge. Pat King recalled before the additional construction “we all sat on the floor teaching Sunday School in one large room in the basement, and when Vacation Bible School couldn’t hold any more children, we used my house.”



By 1984, after additional space was constructed throughout the previous years, the church had expanded by 67%. The growing congregation was holding services in what is now our Chapel. Angie Arner recalled Reverend Dick Meyer telling the congregation “to do the West Hills shuffle” in order to provide enough room for the waiting number of people coming into the small sanctuary for Sunday services, and “everyone would move closer together.” It became clear that a very large expansion program would be needed. This expansion would include: a new 8,000 sq. ft. sanctuary which would provide seating for 550 and include a balcony; a new Geneva Lounge, double in size, and remodel the current Geneva Lounge into classrooms; use the existing sanctuary (our current Chapel) into youth/all purpose rooms with the west end serving as a small chapel; additional parking for up to 300 cars; an entry vestibule; a circular drive as an entry way for the handicapped; a basement which would include three additional classrooms; rough in bathrooms and expanded kitchen, plus a Fellowship Hall; courtyard with fountain for use during warm weather events and overflow from Geneva Lounge; a Cry Room; an Ushers Room; enlarge the library; Choir rehearsal room; and remodel the nursery and build a nursery bathroom. It was stated that all of the expansions and improvements “will happen with total success of our building campaign.” Angie recalled that “it was an exciting time for all of us.”



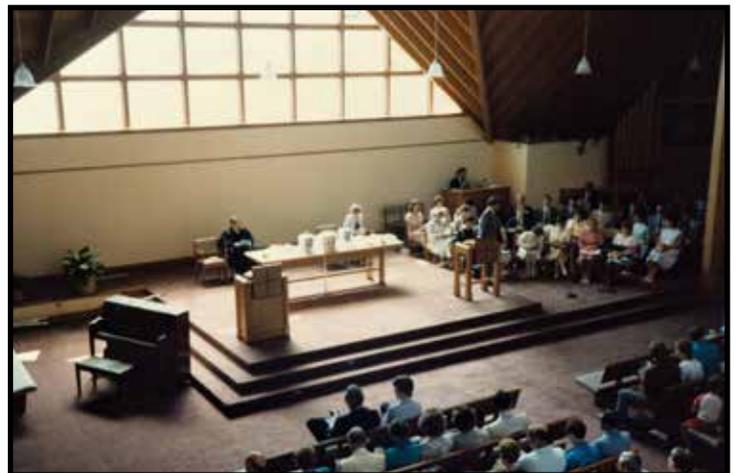
There were numerous committees formed, and it appeared that everyone was involved with this \$1.2 million dollar goal over a 156 week period. The slogan for this huge project was “**Share the Sacrifice Share the Joy.**” Canvassers were sent to every home with commitment cards which had to be signed by the member during the canvassers visit, then returned to the church to the financial secretary on the same day.

A GROWING CHURCH - RECOGNIZING 35 YEARS OF THE SANCTUARY BUILDING, CONTINUED



It was very organized, and very successful. Although you may note not everything listed above was built, such as the courtyard with the fountain, it was still an extremely successful campaign that was completed in June 1986.

On March 15, 1987, during the 10:30 a.m. service, a Dedication Service took place. Previous West Hills pastors Howard Dooley, Pastor Dennis Denning, Youth Pastor James Fiedler and Associate Pastor Roy Langwig took their place along with the current Pastor, Richard Meyer, in dedicating a long-awaited sanctuary and other additional space. It had to be a very proud moment for everyone attending that Dedication service to look around at all they had helped to create, through their commitment to the church they loved, as they sang: "I enter your holy presence, Lord, to dedicate to you a building not of wood and stone but one of heart and soul." Angie shared her feelings of that special time; "I can remember going into the new sanctuary one day before it was open to worship. I thanked God for bringing me to West Hills at an important time in our church history." As we sit in our beautiful sanctuary built 35 years ago this month, we too can feel blessed that so many dedicated members committed themselves 35 years ago to make their dream into a reality, which we can enjoy today.



INTRODUCING YOUTH INTERN, LIBBY WHITLOW



Hello all!

I am so excited to be your youth intern for the summer of 2021. I love getting to meet new people and building relationships so that we can love each other as God instructs us to. Please say hello if you happen to stop by any youth events!

Some background on me- I just finished my sophomore year of college at Oklahoma State University down in Stillwater, OK. I am a History major with a minor in Economics and another pending minor in Religious Studies. However, I graduated from Westside High School in 2019 and grew up right here in Omaha. I loved being involved with my youth group at my home church- Presbyterian Church of the Cross. I have so many fun memories from mission trips, Triennium, and Wednesday night programming. I feel lucky to have the opportunity to be in fellowship with you all for these next few months and hopefully share the love and fulfillment I received from my youth group experiences.

Some other favorite things of mine:

SCRIPTURE: John 15:13

FOOD: Cherry and Blue Raspberry Shaved Ice!

MOVIE: Any Avengers movie

BOOK: Pride & Prejudice

CANDY: Watermelon Sour Patch Kids

MUSIC: I love Taylor Swift or any song from the 70s!

SOMETHING THAT GETS ON MY NERVES:

When something is rattling in the back of my car and I can't fix it because I'm driving. The noise will drive me insane!

HOBBIES/PASSIONS: I love reading so much!

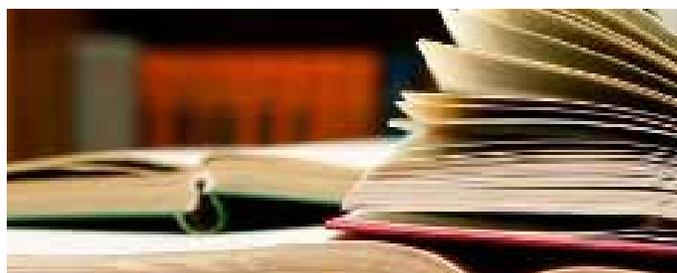
It is definitely my favorite hobby. I also enjoy going on walks and playing the cello when I can. My passions include pursuing my faith, staying focused in school, learning about history and spending meaningful time with my family and friends.

SOMETHING PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW

ABOUT YOU: In the day and age of first meeting people online, someone may not know that I am really tall in person! I'm 5'10 and sorry to say that I do not play basketball or volleyball competitively.

MY HAPPY PLACE: Out at my family's cabin in Burwell, NE. I love being surrounded by the sand hills and staying close to the Calamus Reservoir.

FOOTNOTES FROM THE LIBRARY



Did you know?...

West Hills has an extensive Reference Library? It is located on the lower level at the bottom of the stairs. There are two complete sets of Bible Commentaries. There is just about every English Bible Translation you can think of on the shelves. There are also books of maps and a variety of other resources to explore. So if you are interested in personal or group Bible study, this is the place to begin. **So stop by and Check It Out!**

The Spiritual Formation and Discipleship Committee has been very active over the past few months to identify appropriate and meaningful programs for West Hills Church members and non-members. The committee members, led by Rick Mason, are Jane Loeck, Julie Zimmerman, Kathryn Traudt, Karen Jarvis and Gloria Zinn.

The Committee developed a survey which was placed in Thursday Thoughts and sent to over 300 members and non-members of West Hills to determine what programs would be of interest, as well as seeking opinions on the days, times and length of program offerings. After receiving the results the Committee is moving forward with the development of programs for the church. Although only 47 people responded to the survey, it did give the Committee some insight into the interests of the congregation. It was also encouraging to learn that 87% of the respondents are either active in, or plan to be active in, some form of Biblical Study.

There were 51% of the respondents who were interested in attending a Sunday morning Bible Study and 48.9% who were not concerned who would facilitate the Bible Study program. With regard to study topics, 59% of the respondents preferred a study on the history of the Bible, such as understanding the places, culture, and governments at that time. There were 59.6% who would join a study which involved Biblical discussions, involving questions and answers relating to various books of the Bible. A study program on current events and our faith received 51.1% interest. Many of the respondents preferred a 4-6 week commitment to a study group (31.9%), although 29.8% would agree to an 8-10 week commitment.

Even though the Committee received a fairly low number of respondents to their survey, it still gave them a guide in developing the type of study group programs desired at West Hills. The Committee intends to design classes appealing to all members and visitors, providing a comfortable setting for our first time attendees as well as the seasoned Biblical scholar. The goal is to have class opportunities developed by early summer and expanding into the fall. These classes will be advertised in Thursday Thoughts, The Window, and during announcements on Sunday mornings.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us *"All scripture is breathed by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work."*

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE BIBLE?

- 1. Why did Moses leave Egypt and go to Midian?**
A. he no longer wanted to live in the royal palace B. he killed a Hebrew C. God told him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt D. he killed an Egyptian
- 2. What father and son were both circumcised on the same day?** A. Jacob and Joseph
B. Abraham and Isaac C. David and Absalom
D. Abraham and Ishmael
- 3. Who was the first self-declared king of Israel?**
A. Saul B. David C. Gideon D. Abimelech
- 4. Who was Hannah?** A. Esther's sister
B. Samuel's mother C. Ruth's mother-in-law
D. Eli's wife
- 5. Who was the first God-appointed king of Israel?**
A. Elijah B. Samuel C. David D. Saul
- 6. Who used a jawbone to kill 1000 Philistines?**
A. Joshua B. David C. Samson D. Ezekiel
- 7. Who said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised."**
A. David B. Jeremiah C. Job D. Nehemiah
- 8. Fill in the blanks from Proverbs: "_____ stirs up dissension, but _____ covers over all wrongs."**
- 9. Who was chosen by Jesus' followers to replace Judas Iscariot, who had betrayed Jesus?**
A. Menassah B. Matthias C. Menoris D. Manora
- 10. When was the Holy Spirit first mentioned in the Bible?** A. Acts B. Genesis C. Luke D. Psalms
- 11. *In Acts 5:34 who was the Pharisee who defended the apostles basically saying their movement would die out like the others?** A. Annas
B. Nicodemus C. Gamaliel D. Calaphas
- 12. *In what city were the disciples first called Christians?** A. Antioch B. Gaza C. Caesarea
D. Damascus

*Extreme New Testament Bible Trivia by Troy Schmidt

(answers on the back page)

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Food Cart Curry Chicken



Ingredient list:

1 pound chicken thighs
1 lemon
oregano
1 tablespoon curry powder
1/2 onion
1/4 teaspoon coriander seeds
2 cloves garlic
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 teaspoon paprika, olive oil, salt, pepper
Serves 4

Cut a pound of boneless, skinless chicken thighs into bite size chunks, and slice half an onion into thin rings.

Make a paste by combining 3 tablespoons of olive oil with 1 1/2 tablespoons of lemon juice, 1/4 teaspoon coriander seed, 2 cloves of garlic, 1 tablespoon of curry powder, a sprig of oregano, 1/4 teaspoon of paprika, 1/2 teaspoon of ground cumin and a teaspoon of salt. Whirl it in a spice grinder or a blender. Grind in copious amounts of black pepper.

Put the onions and chicken into a plastic bag, pour in the marinade and squish it all around so the onions and chicken are thoroughly coated. Marinate in the refrigerator for at least 4 hours, or overnight.

Sprinkle with more salt and pepper. Slick a heavy pan or a wok with a bit of vegetable oil and cook the onions and chicken for about five minutes, tossing every minute or so. It will splutter a bit, and smell so delicious you'll be snatching pieces from the pan.

Serve over white rice. I always asked for my chicken without the white sauce, but if you must have it, combine equal parts of mayonnaise and Greek yogurt, with a dollop of sugar and a splash of vinegar. Personally, I think you're much better off with a righteous hot sauce.

SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE

compiled by Maralee Gifford

Medical Science and the Bible

Encyclopedia Britannica documents that in 1845, a young doctor in Vienna, Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis, was horrified at the terrible death rate of women who gave birth in hospitals. As many as 30 percent died after childbirth. Semmelweis noted that doctors would examine the bodies of patients who died, then, without washing their hands, go straight to the next ward and examine expectant mothers. This was their normal practice, because the presence of microscopic diseases was unknown.

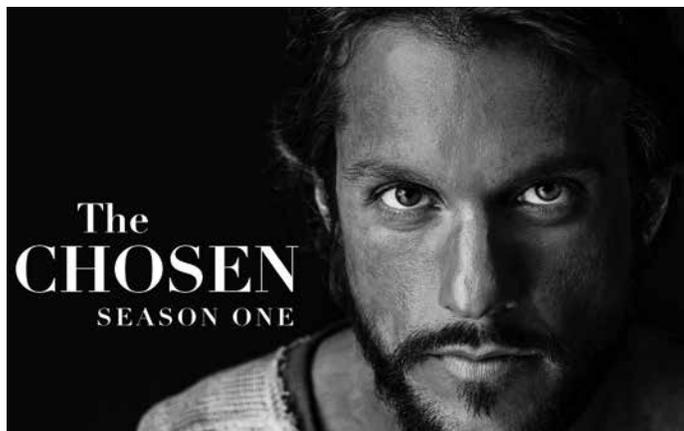
Semmelweis insisted that doctors wash their hands before each examination, and the death rate immediately dropped to two percent

Look at the specific instructions God gave thousands of years ago to His people for when they encountered disease: "And when he that has an issue is cleansed of his issue; then he shall number himself seven days for his cleansing and wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in running water and shall be clean (Leviticus 15:13). Until recent years, doctors washed their hands in a bowl of water, leaving invisible germs on their hands. However, the Bible says specifically to wash under "running water". The importance of hand washing is not only relevant to us today during a pandemic but was significant enough to mention in the Bible as well.



Comfort, R 2001 *Scientific Facts in the Bible: 100 Reasons to Believe the Bible Is Supernatural in Origin*, Bridge-Logos Publishers

TV SERIES SUGGESTION



“**The Chosen** is one of the most engaging Bible inspired productions I’ve seen. Surprisingly funny and relatable, we continue watching episode after episode NOT because we feel obligated to support it as dutiful Christians, but because it’s compelling.” Megan Basham, “WORLD”.

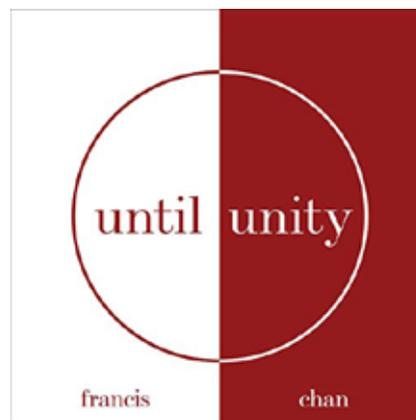
According to a review by Christian organization, “Geeks Under Grace”, “The Chosen became notable in its development for being one of the most successful crowd funded television projects of all time. It was initially released only on the Christian streaming service VidAngel; however, the entire series caught more attention when all eight episodes were released for free on YouTube this past spring. Since then, it’s become one of the most talked-about entertainment projects in Christian circles.” Season 2 has just been completed. The project exists entirely through the donations of individuals and institutions.

The series focuses on the life of Jesus through miracles, demon banishment, and Jewish practices common at the time such as Shabbat, and the Old Testament.

Rotten Tomatoes, a trusted “measurement of quality for movies and tv” give the series an 8 out of 10. The audience which they measured gave the series a 99% out of 100.

suggested by Debbie Chadwick

BOOK SUGGESTION



To many it appears the church, in today’s world, is more divided than ever.

In his book, “**Until Unity**”, New York Times best selling author, Francis Chan, asks us to “hate sin, pursue peace, and strive for unity in the church without compromising holiness or truth.”

According to publisher David C. Cook, in his book “Chan calls for believers and churches everywhere to align our hearts with God and start taking seriously His numerous commands to unify. While many believe doctrine is the root of our problem, Francis argues that the real problem is the shallowness or non-existence of our love for each other—rooted in a shallowness in our understanding of the gospel. This is what desperately needs to change”.

In his recent appearance on GMA3: What you Need to Know, during the weekly “Faith Friday” segment, Chan said, “He (God) created us all and if you have an issue with the way He made me because of my skin color or nationality, you are going to have to stand before Him, and explain that to Him. You are not going to want to do that. You are going to want to bless everyone no matter what race they are because HE created them.”

Chan is an American pastor and teacher who lives with his wife and four children in California. He is the former pastor of Cornerstone Christ Church in Simi Valley which he and his wife started in 1994.

suggested by Debbie Chadwick



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



JUNE

1-Beth Anderson
Ryan Turner
Kim Sedivy
2-Debbie Chadwick
4-Rhona Yetts
5-Everly Hanna
7-Michael Wohlgemuth
8-Colin Leslie
9-Rosemary Frandeen
11-Rene Padilla
Rich Schmidt

Andy Jansen
12-Kathy Leach
15-Linda Springsted
Keith Boyd
19-Roger Harned
Kara DeHaven
Evelyn Pittack
21-Jan Vermilyea
23-Jordan Schaffer
26-Mark Jacobsen
27-Jerrian Hawkins
28-Stan Owens

Rob Laughlin
Kayla Wilson
29-Deb Johnson
Jane Power
Terry Topolski
Josh Sauer

JULY

2-Bud Nelson
Noreen Johnson
Linda Schuchmann
Nancy Anderson

3-Alisha Sauer
Allison Kopperud
Caitlin O'Hare
4-Jon Hoeven
Gavin Wohlgemuth
7-Greg Schuchmann
Tim Weller

The complete list of July birthdays will be in the July newsletter.