"WHEN DARK DAYS and LONG NIGHTS SEEM TO LAST FOREVER"

If often seems that the problems of life are unending, and they only intensify with every passing day. Although our troubles are not unique on the pages of history, they for sure are unique to us when they occur! A single statement in the morning news this week really caught my attention: "Every 7th person you pass on the street is either out-of-work, or living on food stamps". In some of our large cities unemployment lines stretch on for block after block. On the world stage, wars and rumors of wars, bloodshed and strife go on unabated. On the home front, our families face daily problems that baffle the mind, weary the soul, and test their physical endurance.

Our little newsletter does not begin to have room to even 'list' our problems, much less try to solve them. As I pondered these issues, I "borrowed" one of the books from my wife's library. It is entitled, "Pack Up Your Gloominess In A Great Big Box", by Barbara Johnson. She shared some helpful insights, along with bit of humor. For these brief lines, here are only THREE things we MUST remember if we are going to stay on top of our problems, and endure those long, dark nights.

I. REMEMBER THIS IS A 'REAL WORLD'.

I am sure that this statement does not come to you as a big surprise! We are mortal, and all mortals must deal with the limitations that this category of "mortality" imposes. That beautiful new bundle of joy from heaven to a new mom and dad will someday grow up to be a "senior citizen", with lots of aches and pains. Jesus himself reminded us: "the sun rises on the evil and on the good, and God sends the rain on the just and the unjust" (Matthew 5:45). Barbara Johnson put it this way: “Some days you're the bug.... some days, the windshield". In this panorama of good and evil, surely ONE of the important things to remember, is that we must focus on the good and not dwell on the bad. The majority of our days are filled with sunshine and beauty, bountiful harvests, and loving families. Being human, we tend to become what we focus and dwell on, so it is still an absolute fact that God created everything in this universe, and when He had completed this task, we read in Genesis 1:31 - "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was VERY GOOD"!

II. REMEMBER THAT GOD IS STILL ON HIS THRONE.

We often hear people say "Where was God when this happened!", "Where was He when death and tragedy occurred"? The answer is simply, He is still on His throne. He is where He was when his one and only Son died on the cross for our sins. We live in an orderly universe. God does not suspend the law of gravity if you jump off a cliff into a deep ravine. He did not put a protective shield around Joplin when the F5 tornado roared across the countryside. Ponder these statements:
**Thoughts from Abroad... (Well sort of!?!)**

**Matthew Carder**

**Adam and Eve**

This past month, I have been thinking a lot about the story of Adam and Eve. I have been trying to understand what it must have been like for them.

- They didn’t just know about God, they get to walk with Him in the cool of the evening.
- They had his first-hand warning about what would happen if they disobeyed Him (death). Once they ate the fruit, they knew enough to be afraid.

Then God arrived, and He passed down some really harsh judgments. Remember, life was pretty much perfect up until they sinned and saw the consequences. But now, Eve, who had never had trouble in child birth, now must suffer through its pain. And Adam, who had never pulled a weed or been poked by a thorn, now must toil and labor for each meal. What’s more, Adam and Eve will never look at each other the same again.

But the most amazing thing to me has been trying to understand what Adam and Eve must have felt as God told them that their new grass clothing wasn’t good enough. In that moment, the Lord took an animal, and for the first time ever, killed it so that Adam and Eve could wear its skin as clothing. Death entered the world, but not like they expected: instead of them dying, they were forced to watch an innocent one die in their place.

Each day as they got dressed, I’m sure they thought about that innocent animal that died so their sin and shame could be covered. (I say innocent because it probably wasn’t the snake that was killed for clothing.) What a great foreshadowing of the Savior who was to come about 4,000 years later.

Next time you are looking through your closet trying to decide what to wear, I hope you will think about the innocent One who died so that your sin could be covered, and then thank God for His permanent solution and true covering for your sin.

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**Contact Information**

Church Phone: (785) 265-3651  
or e-mail us at  
morrowvillechristianchurch@yahoo.com

**Ed Durst: Elder**

Home Phone: (785)-265-3390  
edjendurst@jbntelco.com

**Worship Times**

- Sunday School 9:30 AM
- Worship 10:30 AM

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**Not to Late to order!!!**

The Pairs and Spares Sunday School Class is selling T-shirts, Sweatshirts, Hoodies, and Polo shirts. The funds raised from the sale of these items will be used to remodel the downstairs kitchen classroom. The items will be blue with white lettering. The Cross will be yellow. Prices and a picture of the logo can be found on the Church Website. There you will also be able to download an order form. Be sure to order yours today and show off your Christian pride. If do not live in the immediate area and would like to order, contact Steven Wright at stevenwjedi@yahoo.com. We will work something out.
Did God Create Everything?

A college professor thinking he could trick his students into not believing in God asked this “Did God create everything?” A student raised his hand and said “Yes he did”. Then the professor said then God had to create “evil” also. The students did not respond to this.

Another student raised his hand and asked the professor if he had ever felt cold. The professor said of course he had felt cold, everyone had. The student said but that is impossible because according to physics “cold” is the abstinence of heat and therefore there is really no thing as “cold”. The student also asked the professor about “darkness” as there is really such a thing as “darkness” as “darkness” is only the abstinence of light. Therefore the student said “Evil” is only the abstinence of God. The professor said good point! Then the professor changed the direction of the discussion. The student was Albert Einstein.

James R. Frager

Opps, Hollywood Made a Mistake

I have in the past criticized Hollywood for not knowing how to make a good Christian movie. Well someone must have figured it out, because for once they did get it right. Soul Surfer (now out on DVD and pay per view) is a strong Christian movie that focuses on the life of Bethany Hamilton.

At the age of 13 Bethany, a world class surfer, loses her arm during a shark attack. “The film details the events surrounding this attack and her struggle during the aftermath. The film is directed by Sean McNamara, who based the screenplay on Hamilton's autobiography of the same name and on the filmmakers' interviews with the family. The title refers to a term coined in the 1960s to denote someone who surfs purely for pleasure, but the word soul has a double meaning as a reference to Hamilton's Christian faith, which helped her recover her surfing career after the attack. AnnaSophia Robb stars as Hamilton, and Dennis Quaid and Helen Hunt star as Hamilton's parents.” (From Wikipedia). Soul Surfer cost 18 million to make, but grossed 43.8 million in the United States and another million overseas. That seems to me like a pretty good profit margin. Maybe with the continued success of Christian movies others in Hollywood will be willing to step outside of the box and produce more quality films that we want to see. Along the same lines, there is even more exciting news. Sherwood Pictures (Facing the Giants, and FireProof) are releasing their next movie, Courageous. I viewed the trailer at their website http://www.courageousthemovie.com/. I also read the book. The book was awesome! I would anticipate the movie to be just as good. The release date for the movie is September 30. I believe it is opening in Manhattan on that date, and the Marysville Theatre, Astro 3, is planning on showing it later. We are constantly be bombarded with anything and everything, so I really feel that when the attempt has been made to put out a good quality movie, ie Soul Surfer and now Courageous it is important for Christians to support such efforts. If we support these efforts maybe Hollywood will figure out “That if They Make It, then They (Christians) will Come!

Help Celebrate a Mile Stone!

Come eat cake and Ice Cream with Eunice Allen for her 90th Birthday!

Sunday, September 25th
2 - 4 PM
Morrowville Christian Church Fellowship Hall

111 W. Elm
Morrowville, KS

No Gifts Please
In loving memory of -

Jim Ayers recently passed away, and as some of you will remember, we were blessed to have his thoughts and words grace the pages of our newsletter. So I went back and found one of his contributions to share with everyone, one last time.

Jim’s Thoughts

I’m an immortal spiritual being having a temporary human experience.-Lao Tzu

This verse spoke to me. The more I thought of it and heard of it, I wondered with my Christian values, could this verse be right? Which got me to looking through the Bible, could it agree with the above verse?

Psalms 139:13 For you created my inmost being; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart.

Ephesians 1:4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

I wonder what God knew. Are we immortal spiritual beings? Can our limited minds figure it out?

This started my mind thinking, "What if?". Immortal in my mind means from creation to everlasting. What if we were spiritual beings from the beginning of creation? When God knitted us together in our mother’s womb, in his infinite wisdom he picked out our spirits for our bodies.

What if on judgment day our spirits were to be there standing before the Lord, and every thought that you ever had was laid out before you? Even the hidden ones? When you are talking nicely to someone face to face, and a bad thought runs through your mind, imagine how you would feel if those thoughts were laid out in front of you. The same can be said about the way that you judge people—whether it’s by color, weight, language, or religion, the list goes on and on.

Have you ever been somewhere and had the feeling that you’ve been there before? What if you were nearly dead on the operating table staring down at your body as the doctors were trying to keep you alive?

The other side of the "what if" coin is a "what is" side. On the "what is" side would be John 3:16- For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. That whosoever believeth in him, shall have everlasting life.

1 Timothy 2:5-6: For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time.

In God’s grace and mercy and the debt that his son has paid, may we be acceptable in God’s eyes.

-Jim
## September 2011

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**Prayer Chain**
Call Marcella Durst @ 785-265-3433 if you need to put someone on the prayer chain, either for prayer or praise.

### Those Serving in September

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<tr>
<th>Communion Mediation</th>
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<td>4 Steve Goldsberry</td>
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<td>11 Jim Frager</td>
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<td>18 Don Grove</td>
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<td>Della Goldsberry</td>
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***"Hope opens doors where despair closes them".  
** Hope lights a candle instead of cursing the darkness".  
** It is a great comfort to know that God has his hands on the steering wheel of the universe".

** God saw that you were getting tired, and a cure was not to be. So He wrapped His arms around you and whispered, "Come with Me".

III. REMEMBER GOD WILL HELP YOU WITH EVERY PROBLEM.

One verse worth memorizing and remembering every day is Isaiah 40:31: "They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint". And one from the New Testament: II Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness".

Take God's Word in your heart with you on every step of your life's pathway. It will guide you safely through all the long, dark nights, and the storms of life. And while you go, remember to SMILE. Barbara Johnson in her book said, "Be a Ringleader"... the definition she gives of a ringleader is: "First one in the bathtub"! "There is a right time for everything... a time to cry; a time to laugh" (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4).

And now go forth! God is great and life IS good. Take your broken dreams to Jesus, only He knows the answer to all your problems!

---Wendell Sack, retired minister