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JULY 2017 PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

"LITTLE BY LITTLE"

Exodus 23:29-30, "But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals to numerous for you. Little by little I will drive them out before you until you have increased enough to take possession of the land."

A young man determined to graduate college didn't like the one at a time courses. Test after test, studying after studying, paper after paper. He didn't realize the amount of time a college education would take. One day meeting with the president of the university, he asked if he could take a shorter course than the one prescribed. Isn't there a way to get the same education but with less time. Couldn't I just take a massive test that would give me the pass to graduate? He thought all these things in his mind now waited for the president of the university to respond. The older gentlemen paused for a moment and spoke, "Oh yes but then again it depends upon what you want to be. The student like us sometimes, wants everything to be done in one big whip of the wand. This is the question raised in our passage "why can't we do what we need in the shortest amount of time?" We think of young David who at the age of probably 15 was anointed as King but then spends the next many years tending sheep.

The principle: God spreads things out for preparation. Remember Psalm 71:5, "For you have been my hope O Sovereign Lord my confidence since my youth."

Three words stick out to me in this passage: Plan, Timing, Reason. Three things we can always be sure about with God: He has a plan, he has his timing, and he has his reasoning's.

The idea of little by little really captures all of life. Plans take time and the reasons are formed from God's wisdom not our own. There is something to say towards God's wisdom. God works as we are capable to understand. There are things we don't understand, things God doesn't even reveal until we reach a certain point in our spiritual life with Him. God prepares us that we will be ready to receive and at the right time.

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God doesn't do everything at once because we couldn't handle it. We wouldn't know what to do. As God brings changes in our life he is increasing in us the capacity to take ahold of it. What the Lord does is enlarge us to possess. He puts us through an exercise or experience as a means of spiritual expansion. Along the way he is enlarging us to receive that which he desires to give us.

While we wait we can feel:

Frustrated

Discouraged

Weary/Anxious

Doubtful

What we see as the process of reaching a particular end, God sees as the goal itself. For us the goal is that we arrive. In our text the people wanted God to give them the land. But why little at a time? Why take a year to prepare? We often just want things done quickly. We don't see the implications or ramifications (the reasoning). God cares about not arriving at the goal but how we reach it is God's goal. God cares about the process not the outcome. It's how we handle the process that is glorifying to God. Anyone can glorify God when we have 'arrived'. God's preparation for us needs to be the goal for us as well. If moment by moment obedience is the goal then each moment as it comes is precious said Oswald Chambers. Stay calm, stay faithful, stay unconfused. Focus on where you are now, not where you will be. Focus on what you have, not what you may or could have later. God takes much interest in how you treat the now. He wants to know he is important in the now, in the hard and burden bearing time.

We find a valuable principle from Philippians 2:13, "for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." In the process of salvation and waiting for things to come about, His plan, his timing, and his reasoning are all according to his good purpose working in you. Thus the wisdom of God is to be observed in the gradual advances, little and little, for thus we are kept upon our guard, and in a continual dependence upon God.

Conclusion

Paul points out a great element to understanding the will of God: be a person who prays for it, see what it says in Colossians 4:12, "Epaphras who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you **that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.**" Let us be able to believe as in Psalm 56:11, "in God I trust I will not be afraid."

With Love in Christ, Pastor Jamie



Nazarene Missions

Missions is about extending a and spreading God's and His word through example and work. Please join us in doing just that this year at Anna Naz through various projects we have in the works both locally and afar. Bring one canned good to each missionary service to help prepare meals to distribute locally during Thanksgiving as well as your favorite finger foods to enjoy as we "travel the globe" and work here at home to help spread the Good News of His perfect. His infinite grace, and His boundless mercy.

Tammy Vicenzi NMI President

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES

MISSSIONARY SERVICE

July 16.....6:00 p.m.

Check out our Website and Facebook Page at www.annanaz.com



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

SATURDAY, JULY 29 10:00 A.M. - NOON IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

SCHOOL SUPPLIES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PRESCHOOL - COLLEGE STUDENTS

JULY 30 AT 6:00 P.M.



Join us for a night of fun as we celebrate May, June & July birthdays



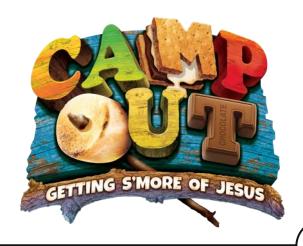


Bring your favorite Ice cream Topping

A WEEKEND VBS

Friday, August 4
Saturday, August 5

Time To Be Announced



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

	MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS JULY 30					
Special Music:	A.M. Children's Choir	P.M. Jack & Nina Shepard	Special Music:			
Greeters:	A.M. Bryan & Ginger Morrison	P.M. Leonard & Connie Sadler	A.M. Abby Barlow			
Projection:	A.M. Jessica Elkins	P.M. Jason Elkins	P.M. Fellowship Connect			
Sound:	A.M. Brad Clayborne	P.M. Stanley Elkins	in the Fellowship Hall			
Video:	A.M. Michael Hill	P.M. Marshall Ramage				
Ushers: Robert	Smith, Terry Wiseman Sr., Logan Wise	Greeters:				
Pastoral Prayer	A.M. Terry Wiseman Sr.					
Nursery Worker	/Helper: Vonda Hill/Nancy Smith		Noah Wiseman			
·	Jack & Nina Shepard, Carla Ramage		P.M. Fellowship Connect in the Fellowship Hall			
	MINISTRY VOLUNT	TEERS JULY 9	1			
Special Music:	A.M. Curt Lyerla	P.M. Ginger Morrison, Nina Shepard,	Projection:			
•	·	Marilyn Elkins, Caria Ramage	A.M. TBA			
Greeters:	A.M. Terry Sr. & Noah Wiseman	P.M. Richard & Yvonne Graham	P.M. Fellowship Connect in the Fellowship Hall			
Projection:	A.M. Verna Fuller	P.M. Verna Fuller	in the renowship tran			
Sound:	A.M. Brad Clayborne	P.M. Stanley Elkins				
Video:	A.M. Jason Elkins	P.M. Marshall Ramage	Sound:			
Ushers: Curly R		A.M. Stanley Elkins				
•	athy Papa, Leonard Sadler	P.M. Fellowship Connect in the Fellowship Hall				
-	/Helper: Vonda Hill/Carla Ramage					
Finance Team:	Jack & Nina Shepard, Carla Ramage		4			
	MINISTRY VOLUNT	MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS JULY 16 Video:				
Special Music:	A.M. Patti Mulback	P.M. Missionary Service	A.M. Michael Hill			
Greeters:	A.M. Kathy Papa/Lottie Smith	P.M. Missionary Service	P.M. Fellowship Connect			
Projection:	A.M. Jessica Elkins	P.M. Missionary Service	in the Fellowship Hall			
Sound:	A.M. Brad Clayborne	P.M. Missionary Service				
Video:	A.M. Michael Hill	P.M. Missionary Service	Ushers:			
Ushers: Curt Ly	A.M. Michael Hill P.M. Missionary Service Ushers: Noah Wiseman Mark Smith Curt Lyerla					
Pastoral Prayer	Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Ri	ichard & Yvonne Graham	Curt Lyerla T.J. Macy			
Nursery Worker	/Helper: Vonda Hill/Kathy Modglin					
·	Jack & Nina Shepard, Carla Ramage					
	MINISTRY VOLUNT	EERS JULY 23	Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Richard & Yvonne Graham			
Special Music:	A.M. Harley & Madison Schnaare, Sienna Morrison	P.M. Stanley & Marilyn Elkins	Richard & I voline Granam			
Greeters:	A.M. Richard & Yvonne Graham	P.M. Bryan & Ginger Morrison	N			
Projection:	A.M. Verna Fuller	P.M. Verna Fuller	Nursery Worker/Helper: Vonda Hill/Kerri Macy			
Sound:	A.M. Brad Clayborne	P.M. Jason Elkins				
Video:	A.M. Jason Elkins	P.M. Marshall Ramage	Finance Team: Jack Shepard			
Ushers: Logan V	Nina Shepard					
_	Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Ka	· ·	Carla Ramage			
Nursery Worker	/Helper: Vonda Hill/Madison Wright					
Finance Team:	Jack & Nina Shepard, Carla Ramage					





LOVING AS JESUS LOVED. GIVING AS JESUS GAVE.

EPHESIANS 5:25

REAL...RELEVANT...RELATIONAL

Anna First Church of the Nazarene July 2017 Activities								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
						1		
2 Communion PM Service	3 Church Office Closed	4 Independence Day Church Office Closed	5 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm Church Office Closed	6	7 Rob & Kolene Hintz Anniversary (Links Missionaries)	8		
9	10	11	12 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	13 Board Meetings Sunday School Board 6:15 pm Church 7:00 pm	14	15		
16 Missionary Service 6:00 pm	17	18	19 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	20 Discover The Power of Prayer at Decatur	21 NYI, NMI, SDMI Conventions At Decatur	22 District Assembly At Decatur		
23 30 Fellowship Connect 6 pm	24 31	25	26 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	27	28	29 Back To School Bash 10 am - noon		