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SEPTEMBER 2017

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Keeping Balance in a Busy World

In our society today so many people are overloaded and overscheduled that it leads to being overburdened and potentially the danger of going overboard. For the Christian I believe it's important that we watch and guard the time that God has entrusted to us. Just like the scriptures teach on tithing and stewardship of money we also must be good stewards of our time.

The foundation that we live on for tithing in church is 10%. This means when we get paid 10% of that income goes to God (or the local church we are a part of). If this is true for money should we not "steward time" on Sunday to worship as well? But there is more! I believe we must examine also the time we use through the week. A good steward of money doesn't only give 10% to God but also wisely uses their money on everything else as well. We must be wise how we use our time through the week. Listen to what Psalm 90:12 says, "Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom." This is such an important reminder to us as Christians every day. This being said I want to touch on something that is very important to me and I hope it will become important for you as well.

I want to look at a couple scriptures that I've used before but I think they are important enough to keep looking at:

"That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." (Mark 1:32-35)

"The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. So many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." (Mark 6:30-31)

"As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me! "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "You are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:38-42)

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

As you spend time reading these passages I want you to see that Jesus shows us the value and the priority of balance. I hear Christians say that they talk or pray to God all throughout the day. We don't have to sit down in solitude to do it. I understand that praying continually as Paul addressed (1 Thess. 5:16-18) and I too commune with God in this way. But I believe Jesus desires to teach us the importance of having a set time and space to spend at his feet.

We need to keep balance in being *active* for God and being *receptive* to God.

Don't busy yourself so much with God's work that you forget to be in His presence. We can't get a sense of God's presence without creating space for God's presence. Being active in life is good. The problem that I see with many Christians today is do we take time to be quiet before our heavenly Father?

In our passages Jesus and the disciples were active in building the kingdom. Jesus knew in order to keep up the work he needed the solitude time with His Father. Finding the time of solitude is a discipline. I like to say discipline is the other side of discipleship. Having spiritual discipline makes us more sensitive to the voice of God. God is speaking but sometimes we seldom hear! I believe when we get alone with God in a time set in advance it sets us up to better hear God in the everyday things.

Our lives have become absurd. Within the word absurd, we find the Latin word *surdus*, which means "deaf". What happens though when we take this practice seriously and begin to learn to listen? Take our English word Obedient; it comes from the Latin word *audire* which means "listening". Spiritual disciplines are necessary in order to move slowly from an absurd to an obedient life, from a life filled with noisy worries to a life in which there is some free inner space where we can listen to our God and follow his guidance. The core of prayer is listening and if we are honest with all the "noise" around us it can be hard to hear!

Solitude is not a spontaneous response to an occupied or preoccupied life. We have too many reasons to not be alone. We must then be careful planning some solitude time. We will fill our calendars with everything else but quiet time with our Father! Jesus said "Go to your private room and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place." (Matthew 6:6) I think Jesus was onto something. We need a time and place for God. Why? If we really believe not only that God exists but also that he is actively present in our lives—healing, teaching, and guiding—we need to set aside a time and space to give him some undivided attention.

Even though we may remove outer distractions, inner ones will manifest themselves. We often use outer distractions to shield against the inner ones. This is why it's difficult to get alone. The more we do it the more Jesus will bring healing to our inner conflicts. The discipline of solitude allows us to gradually come in touch with the hopeful presence of Jesus in our lives. At first it will be hard, but as you discipline the time and space I hope you will realize the true spiritual value.

With Love in Christ,
Pastor Jamie



Nazarene Missions
INTERNATIONAL

**MISSIONARY SERVICE
SUNDAY-SEPTEMBER 17 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

We are asking that everyone bring their favorite finger foods.

We are asking that you also bring one non-perishable canned good which will go towards making the meal at Thanksgiving for our “Meals on Wheels Soup Kitchen”.



**MURPHYSBORO ZONE
MISSIONARY RALLY**

Will be held at the
Murphysboro Church of the Nazarene

Saturday, October 7th at 7 p.m.

Andy and Judy Bennet,
missionaries of Papua New Guinea
will be there.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

Breakfast.....9:00 a.m.
Pastoral Prayer9:10 a.m.
Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:35 a.m.

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Family Bible Study6:30 p.m.
Youth Group6:30 p.m.
Children’s Quizzing.....6:30 p.m.
September - April 1st Grade - 6th Grade

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES

Children’s Quizzing..... 5:00 p.m.
September - April 1st Grade - 6th Grade
Pastoral Prayer 5:40 p.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

MISSIONARY SERVICE

Sunday, September 17

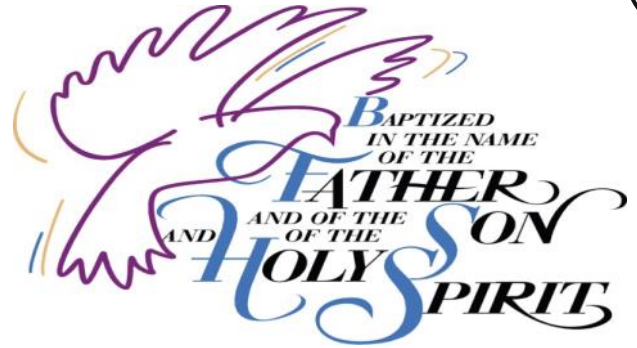
6:00 p.m.

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



**MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10**

We will have a short meeting with all those who are currently working in the nursery and those who would be interested in volunteering immediately following the morning service.



**BAPTISMAL SERVICE
SEPTEMBER 17**

See Pastor Jamie if you are interested in being baptized

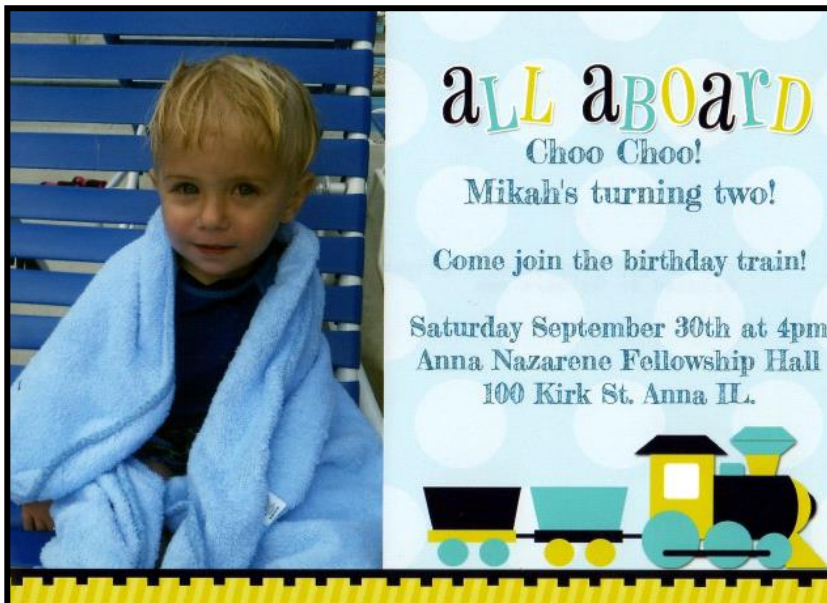
IS COOKING BREAKFAST YOUR SPECIALITY



If so we could use your help with feeding breakfast to 65 football players, cheerleaders and their coaches from Anna Jonesboro High School on

Friday, September 29

Cooking will begin at 5:00 a.m. with breakfast being served at 7:00 a.m. A sign-up sheet is available in the church foyer if you can help with this event as we serve the students of our community.



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15
CHURCH IN THE PARK
More details later.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS SEPTEMBER 3

Special Music: A.M. Children's Church P.M. Bryan Morrison
 Greeters: A.M. Richard & Yvonne Graham P.M. Bryan & Ginger Morrison
 Projection: A.M. Jessica Elkins P.M. Jason Elkins
 Sound: A.M. Brad Clayborne P.M. Stanley Elkins
 Video: A.M. Clayton Ramage P.M. Marshall Ramage
 Ushers: Robert Smith, Heath Brooks, Noah Wiseman Matt Macy
 Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Kathy Papa, Leonard Sadler
 Nursery Volunteers: Nancy Smith/Kerri Macy
 Finance Team: Jack & Nina Shepard, Carla Ramage

MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS SEPTEMBER 10

Special Music: A.M. Jack & Nina Shepard P.M. Stanley & Marilyn Elkins
 Greeters: A.M. Kathy Papa/Lottie Smith P.M. Noah Wiseman
 Projection: A.M. Verna Fuller P.M. Verna Fuller
 Sound: A.M. Brad Clayborne P.M. Jason Elkins
 Video: A.M. Jason Elkins P.M. Clayton Ramage
 Ushers: Curly Ralls, Jacob Wright, T.J. Macy, Mark Smith
 Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Richard & Yvonne Graham
 Nursery Volunteers: Carla Ramage/Mary Clayborne
 Finance Team: Jack & Nina Shepard, Carla Ramage

MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS SEPTEMBER 17

Special Music: A.M. Ginger Morrison, Nina Shepard
Carla Ramage, Marilyn Elkins P.M. Missionary Service
 Greeters: A.M. Richard & Yvonne Graham P.M. Missionary Service
 Projection: A.M. Verna Fuller P.M. Missionary Service
 Sound: A.M. Brad Clayborne P.M. Missionary Service
 Video: A.M. Clayton Ramage P.M. Missionary Service
 Ushers: Robert Smith, Heath Brooks, Noah Wiseman Matt Macy
 Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Kathy Papa, Leonard Sadler
 Nursery Volunteers: Lea Ann Wright/Kathy Cook
 Finance Team: Jack & Nina Shepard, Carla Ramage

MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS SEPTEMBER 24

Special Music: A.M. Abby Barlow P.M. Randy Wright
 Greeters: A.M. Bryan & Ginger Morrison P.M. Leonard & Connie Sadler
 Projection: A.M. Verna Fuller P.M. Verna Fuller
 Sound: A.M. Brad Clayborne P.M. Stanley Elkins
 Video: A.M. Clayton Ramage P.M. Marshall Ramage
 Ushers: Curly Ralls, Jacob Wright, T.J. Macy, Mark Smith
 Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Richard & Yvonne Graham
 Nursery Volunteers: Kathy Modglin/Madison Wright
 Finance Team: Jack & Nina Shepard, Carla Ramage

ANNA NAZ



LOVING AS JESUS LOVED. GIVING AS JESUS GAVE.

EPHESIANS 5:25

REAL...RELEVANT...RELATIONAL

Anna First Church of the Nazarene September 2017 Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Communion PM Service	4 LABOR DAY Church Office Closed	5	6 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	7	8	9
10 Nursery Meeting Immediately following A.M. Service	11	12	13 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	14 Board Meetings Sunday School Board 6:15 pm Church 7:00 pm	15	16
17 Baptismal Service A.M. Service Missionary Service 6:00 pm	18	19	20 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	28	29 A.J. Football Breakfast 7:00 am	30 Mikah McBride's Birthday Party 4:00 pm