



The MESSENGER

ELDERS

Richard Jay

Vince Formica

MINISTERS

Jeremy Sigle, Pulpit

Paul Wisdom, Youth & Family

SERVICES

Sunday

9:30 AM - Bible Study

10:30 AM - Worship

5:00 PM - House Church Online

Wednesday

7:00 PM - Bible Study

Thoughts from Jeremy

I love watching nature shows. Especially shows about animals. It is awesome to see how amazing a creator we have and the unique abilities He gave animals. One of my favorite behaviors is the musk ox's defensive ring. Musk oxen live in arctic climates where cover is very minimal. Not only are they enormous, they also are a dark brown color that will easily stick out in a snowy environment. However, they have an amazing defense against predators. When a group of predators, such as wolves, surround them they form a circle. The adults of the herd stand shoulder to shoulder with the younger and more vulnerable in the center.

Ephesians 6:12 tells us we are in a spiritual battle. Paul says, *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."* Satan tries to attack the church from many different angles. He uses sin, false doctrine, deceit, trickery etc. He especially wants to attack the vulnerable and immature in faith. We must be prepared with the armor he describes later in the chapter.

Not only must we be armed with the battle gear, but we must also protect the vulnerable. Ephesians 4 explains one important role of the church in protecting one another. **Ephesians 4:12-16** says, *"for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of people, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, that is, Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."*

We have an important role of working toward the goal of maturity and growth in every member of the church so that we can all stand strong together against the attacks of our enemy. Let us all understand and take part in helping the body grow to strength and maturity.

Blessings,
Jeremy

The Elder's Corner

John 3:16 — A Word of Encouragement

By Vince Formica

The beauty of John 3:16 is that it is a simple statement, that brings together a lot of teaching and biblical concepts. To encourage you today I am parsing the scripture out with my thoughts.

For God

The Bible does not feel the need to go to great lengths to exhort people to believe in God, as creator - *“anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”* Hebrews 11:6 With respect to those who reject the notion of God- *“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”* Psalms 14:1

This may be a time when we are (still) waiting to see what happens, and in so doing we might be putting our faith on hold. I can see this in the world I live in. I would urge Christians today, first thing in their day, to remind themselves that there is a God and he must be acknowledged. We should also challenge ourselves to be active in our faith.

So loved

It is amazing that for Christians, love is their secret weapon, because for Christians, love is a verb as in *“It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”* No matter what happens, keep loving. Don't give way to the temptation to treat people as they are treating you.

The World

Only God can love this world. Picture a person that people find hard to love and I can assure you that person in almost every case is loved by their mother. When we talk about love in John 3:16 we are talking about how God regards the imperfect occupants of this world, from me to you to the most imperfect person you know that you yourself could never love. You are loved, and the church is working hard to love you as well.

That he gave his only begotten Son

The question which faces every person born to this earth is, do we see this earth as the entirety of our existence, or is there a world beyond the one we live in, that is eternal, and a world where we are in direct contact with the God who created us. He has made an eternal provision in the form of the most painful sacrifice of his son he that can make.

That whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

There is a very happy day in store for those who follow Christ. That day will swallow up every unhappy day you have had. The pain and limitations of this life will seem far away. However, we have to stick to our beliefs. Part of the journey is the process of persisting in our faith despite setbacks.

Guest Editorial

PARENTS HAVE TO LIVE IT

At one point during the game, the coach said to one of his little players, “Do you understand what cooperation is and what teamwork is all about?” The little boy nodded.

“Do you understand that what really matters is not whether we win or lose, but that we play together as a team?” The little boy nodded again.

“Good,” the coach continued. “And, when a strike is called, or you’re thrown out at first, you don’t argue, curse, attack the umpire with a bat, or throw dirt in the opposing team members’ faces. Do you understand all that?”

The little boy said, “Well, sure coach. That’s what you taught us.”

“Good,” said the coach. “Now, please go over there and explain all that to your mother.”

I’ve been to a few Little League games when the above conversation needed to take place. It’s sad to see parents who act in an irresponsible manner, for they are teaching their children (and others’ children) to behave in a similar manner.

God has given those of us who are parents an awesome responsibility—not only to teach our children what is right, but also to live in such a way that they can see that we are willing to practice what we’ve been teaching them to do.

Moses told the parents of Israel to take the laws which God had given them and “teach them diligently to your children” (Deuteronomy 6:7). But before telling parents to do that, he warned them: “Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it” (Deuteronomy 6:3).

Before we can teach the love of God to our children and others, it must be in our own hearts. May God bless all parents as each strives to do just that. May your life be so filled with a desire to follow God, that your children will listen to all you have to say to them.

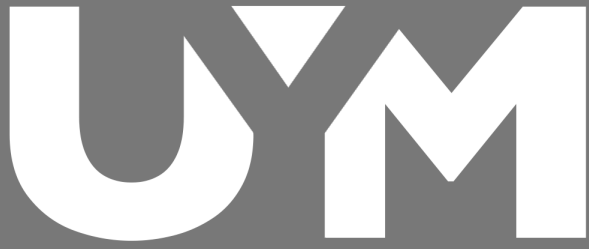
-Alan Smith, “Thought for the Day”

Copied from House to House Heart to Heart

Volume 19 Number 6

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 11:1



UNIVERSITY
YOUTH
MINISTRY

Hello all!

Things are looking up for this year! ReCharge was pushed back due to some sickness in our house, but I am SUPER EXCITED FOR IT IN A COUPLE WEEKS!

**For starters, as of right now, we will be having CAMP at GCBC in person!
Teen Week : June 13-18. Middle School Week: June 20-25.**

We will have several weekly events: Monday Manna, Save your Wednesday, and Secret Devos.

I haven't heard anything yet about AIMCON, but however they choose to host the event I know it will be AMAZING!

I AM EXCITED ABOUT THIS SUMMER AND HOPE TO MAKE UP FOR EVERYTHING WE MISSED OUT ON IN 2020!

Your partner in ministry,

Paul