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# The Link

June 2020

110 Years  
Serving Jesus

Worship, Sun: 10:00 am  
Bible Study, Sun: 11:00 am  
Bible Study, Tues: 6:30 pm

## Thoughts on Fatherhood

When I was growing up I never really thought about being a father or what being a father meant to a man. I knew both of my grandfathers for the first six years of my life and enjoyed being with them.

Grandpa Cobb owned a farm and going to visit him meant getting to walk with him through his fields to look for the cows and call them to come in for milking. It also meant getting to feed the chickens and gather eggs, playing on all the farm equipment sitting in the barnyard, picking rhubarb for Grandma Cobb to make a pie, and using an outhouse to go to the bathroom. Going to see Grandpa Cobb was a great time of exploration.

Granddad Wolgamott lived in the nearest “big city” (about 10,000 population) and worked as a meter reader for the city utilities company. Visiting him meant getting to walk around town with him to read meters at each house or business, getting to meet people that he knew and that knew him, and learning to play a card game called “pitch.” Going to see Granddad Wolgamott was a great time of visiting with people and playing games.

Granddad Wolgamott and Grandpa Cobb were both wise men who loved God, loved people, loved their work, and enjoyed

spending time with me. It wasn’t until I was a little older and they were dead that I wished I had been able to spend more time with them to get to know them and learn their wisdom.

On Grandpa Cobb’s farm there was always work to be done, even though he had three boys to help him do it. When equipment broke down in

a field he had to be creative to find some way to get it back to the barnyard so he



could repair it. My father grew up learning this from Grandpa, so he became a man who knew how to be creative and work hard to accomplish a job. But he also learned to love family and take time to have fun and play games.

I never knew of anything my dad couldn’t accomplish if he set his mind to it. He built some pieces of furniture that any craftsman would love to call their own. He could install electrical wiring or plumbing, repair broken appliances, and even put a new roof on a house. After high school, dad was only able to attend two

years of junior college, but he could start from knowing facts about Centigrade and Fahrenheit temperature and figure an equation to convert from one to the other. But dad was more than just creative, smart, and hard working. He loved Jesus and made sure that his family learned about Jesus and attended church each Sunday to worship God.

Proverbs 22:6 says, “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” When I read that I think about dad being trained by Grandpa Cobb to creatively use his intelligence, to work hard, and to love his family. Then I think about dad teaching me to do the same and remember that I have tried to do that for my children. And finally, I think about my grandsons and granddaughter, and pray that I will have many years with them so I can help teach them to love God, love people, use their intellect creatively, and work hard.

– Dr. Alan Cobb

### In This Issue

15 Minutes	2
A Haircut and God	3
Spotlight on Missions	4
Library News	5
Kid’s Page	6
Pray for our Missionaries	7

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# 15 Minutes

It is really easy for attending church to feel like a chore rather than a choice. But there is a way to refresh attending church. It is one simple change – arrive a little early and stay a little late. If you show up just 15 minutes before the service start time and hang around about 15 minutes after the service ends you will find that little extra time will make all the difference in how you feel about attending church.

Here's how it works.

## From Hectic to Calm

When you get up and have to hurry through your morning routine of showering, dressing, making and then eating breakfast, it is easy to be worn out before you even start to head to church. And it is even more difficult if you have children who need help getting dressed and fed, are distracted by toys or pets to play with, and find reasons to argue with each other. So, by the time you finally get out of the house you find that you will have to get to church without getting caught driving like you are on a NASCAR track or drag racing. Then you finally arrive at church and have to practically sprint to get to a seat. And it takes your heart five minutes to slow down before you can even possibly sing any of the first song. The result is that you are not mentally or physically ready to receive anything from your time worshipping God. How can God bring peace into your life or give you guidance for answers to your questions when you are so

frazzled from rushing that your mind won't slow down so you can focus on him? When Jesus wanted to connect with his father, he moved away from the hustle and bustle of life. We can do that by arriving at church 15 minutes before worship starts so that our hearts and minds have time to calm down before expecting him to speak to us.



## Make Friends

If you arrive at church 15 minutes early for three weeks in a row, you will meet a lot of the same people in the hallways and at the coffee table each week. Instead of a quick nod as you and others hurry to get into a seat, you will have time to hold a meaningful conversation with someone. That means you might actually get or give a real answer when you ask, "How are you today?" When you are hurried, the only answer you have time to give is "Fine." But when you have arrived 15 minutes early, you have the time to hear or say, "I've been tired from the week's work but I'm really enjoying the weekend and I'm asking God to give me a little peace this coming

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week. How are you doing?" Making friends at church will be a struggle when you are so hurried and frazzled there isn't any time to talk and share something about your life and learn something about somebody else's life. With an extra 15 minutes to make friends, you will find getting to church early is exciting so you can talk with friends and find out what they are doing.

## Service

Arriving 15 minutes early to church means you will likely meet people serving in some ministry. And when you talk with them you will hear something you won't catch as you hurry past them to find a seat. You will hear excitement because they love serving and doing something for God. Excitement is contagious. When you are around people excited about serving God, you will find that you are excited to be there and you also want to be part of serving God.

Every Sunday you have to decide whether you will spend part of your day with God and loving others or whether you will hurry in and out of church, wondering why it isn't meaningful to you. Setting the alarm a little earlier so you can have 15 minutes before worship begins will definitely help you be calmer and ready to learn from God. It will also help you make friends and even get excited about serving God.

Worship begins at 10 a.m. I'll be there at least by 9:45. I hope to see you. Be sure to stop and say "Hi."

# A HAIRCUT AND GOD

A Christian went to his favorite barbershop for his weekly haircut and beard trimming. In the course of their conversation, they touched upon the subject of God.

**The barber said: "Look, I don't think that God exists as you believe."**

**"Why do you think that?" asked the Christian.**

**"Well, it's so easy. You only have to go out in the street to realize that God does not exist. If God existed, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abused or crippled children? If God existed, there would be no suffering or pain. Would there be murder or even war? I cannot imagine a loving God who would permit any of these things."**

The Christian didn't want to enter into an argument and could think of no immediate response to the barber's logic. The barber finished his job and the Christian left the shop. The moment he stepped out the door he saw a man sitting on the curb

whose long hair and beard were in need of a barber's attention. (It looked so long, dirty and untidy.)

**The Christian turned and reentered the barber shop and said to the barber, "You know what? Barbers absolutely do not exist!"**

**"How can you say that barbers don't exist?" exclaimed the barber. "I'm here and I'm a barber. For goodness sake, I just cut your hair!!!"**



**"No!" the Christian replied, "Barbers do not exist, because if they did exist, there would be no people with long hair and a stringy beard like that man out there in the street,**

**sitting on the curb."**

**"Oh, barbers do indeed exist!" exclaimed the barber. "What happens is that people first have to come to me. They seek me out and find me!"**

**"You are exactly right!" affirmed the Christian. "That's exactly my point. God does exist. What happens is that people don't look for him and don't go to him. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."**

If you have ever wondered about spiritual matters and had questions about spiritual things, then you will want to go to our website and download the article on our Bible studies page entitled, "Spirituality in a New Dimension." It looks at the spiritual realm and spiritual matters from a new perspective.

You can send me a question by email at [spiritual.dr@gmail.com](mailto:spiritual.dr@gmail.com) and I will try to answer it by email. If the question is too involved, we can meet at a coffee shop and discuss it.

# Spotlight on Missions



## Almost halfway through 2020!

Dear Friends,

Who would have imagined that a tiny, invisible virus would change our society – indeed, that of the whole globe? Now, coming out of lockdown affects all of us. How we continue is to face many personal decisions.

Please realize that our God is in control, weaving patterns we cannot understand, and moving hearts all over the world to accept Jesus. We remember Jesus' words in Matthew 22, verses 37 to 39: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and the first commandment. A second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself." It is time to put them into practice and urge others to do the same.

God sent Jesus to seek and to save what was lost. He came to give peace, of which there is little in the world.

Roanoke Church takes seriously the charge to love God in a new and intense way. We continue to support ministries and missionaries who glorify God.

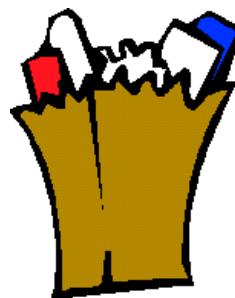
We pray for each of you. Believing in Jesus and making him the Lord of your life is the most important discovery you will ever make. So take advantage of the opportunity, during this difficult time, to meet him and deepen your relationship with God.

Caring for you,  
*Alice Claire Butler*

## Pantry "Pleas" And Thank You

Unfortunately no one could respond to our pleas for May. We hope you will be able to help us with some of those same items for June.

1. Microwave Popcorn
2. Plastic Eating Utensils
3. Kleenex



**JOIN US**

Meeting: June

Waiting another month  
to meet to be on  
the safe side.



**June Cupcakes**

**June Birthdays**

Jun 9  
Jun 17

Erich Aggen  
Norma Jacobs



Norma

**BE COURAGEOUS**

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters

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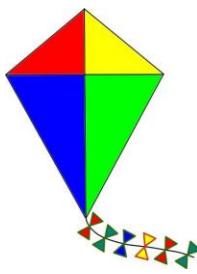
# Library News

Summer Reading Club time is here. Woo Hoo!! Summer is a great time to rest in the shade or by the pool. And while you are resting you can enjoy one of the many adventures of a book. You could look back in history and discover how you might have lived in some particular time. You could find yourself in the midst of a mystery and try to solve it from the clues you find. You could read about a different culture and imagine what it would be like to live there. You could use a book to meditate on God's Word and find help for an everyday situation. Or you could escape the daily grind and relax by reading a fantasy story. Whatever you would like to do you'll find some book in the library to help you and all you have to do is look on the shelves, select a book, check it out, and begin reading. Here are some suggestions.

**You'll Get Through This**  
By Max Lucado

**Noah's Ark**  
By Ken Ham

**The Constantine Codex**  
By Paul L. Maier



**When God's Ways Make No Sense**  
By Larry Crabb

**The End of the Age**  
By David Dolan

**A Nation Without Conscience**  
By Tim & Beverly LaHaye

**Murder on Capitol Hill**  
By Margaret Truman

**The Illuminati**  
By Larry Burkett

**Zero G**  
By Alton Gansky

Alan Coff



## Play an **A-B-C** Game



Number of players:  
1 to?

Equipment: none!

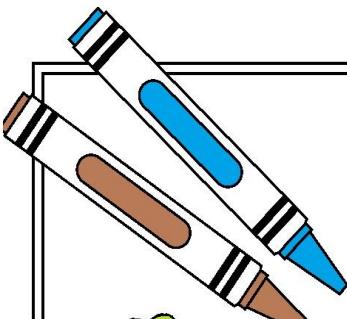
As you travel by car or train or bus look out of the window. The object is to find all the letters of the alphabet in order, starting with A.



Find them on signs, license plates, trucks, anywhere! The first player to find them all wins. Or work together just for fun!

Another ABC game to play is to find things that begin with each letter. Find things created by God or made by people through God's guiding hands!




**Just for KIDS**


Let's Take a Trip!

Imagine that you are visiting a zoo in biblical times. What kind of animals would you find?

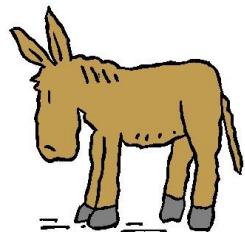
*Unscramble the letters below to find some biblical animals. Check the verses to check your answers.*

pae  
atb  
dnyoke  
gfor  
wlo  
brae  
xo  
otksr  
niol  
art  
whak  
mra  
dveo

ntlaoepe  
lcmae  
eplorad  
roshe  
aotg  
eder  
zirald  
gzleael  
yeanh  
eswale  
hesep  
iepgno  
aclett



Deuteronomy 14:3-5  
Deuteronomy 14:15-18  
Genesis 12:16  
Genesis 15:9  
Isaiah 13:22  
Leviticus 11:29-30



1 Kings 10:22  
1 Samuel 17:34  
Genesis 22:3  
Genesis 47:17  
Revelation 13:2  
Exodus 8:3

Column 1: ape, bat, donkey, frog, owl, bear, ox, stork, lion, rat, hawk, ram, dove  
Column 2: pigeon, cattle, antelope, camel, leopard, horse, goat, deer, lizard, gazelle, hyena, weasel, sheep,  
Column 3: pig, cat, lion, deer, fox, wolf, bear, stork, hawk, ram, dove

# Pray For Our Missionaries

Please join us in praying for these individuals who have accepted Jesus' Lordship and are serving him in mission work.

## **Jun 1 – 8**

Meghan Williams  
Birthday: Jun 6

Meghan serves as collegiate missionary to the students at the University of Florida (UF) and Santa Fe College. Recently Meghan was prayer walking on the UF campus with students from the ministry team. They were praying for students who had wandered from their faith when they were met by a student who had been baptized the previous year and drifted away from Christianity. They invited her to an upcoming event where she was welcomed back. She was accompanied by a student raised Buddhist but considered herself non-religious. Meghan met with the friend for ice cream and invited her to study the Bible and she agreed. Meghan says she is so open to learning more about Jesus.

Pray for the small groups on the UF and Santa Fe campuses and that they would build community which lost students would feel welcome to attend.

## **Jun 9 – 15**

Bascom Brown \*  
Birthday: Jun 13

Bascom served 17 years in Africa before moving to East Asia. Where he works as the

team leader for Deaf Affinity East Asia. He and his team plant churches and plan evangelism initiatives for the deaf population. "We are partnering with and mentor a group of deaf believers, who desire to reach other deaf and see the Bible developed in their sign language," says Bascom. H still disciples deaf believers in Africa through email and social media. "We especially rejoice that the Lord has raised up a young deaf man and other believers in Africa who continue to develop God's Word in their sign language and be the church where they are," Bascom shares.

Pray for deaf believers in East Asia and Africa. Ask God to open doors for Bascom to meet deaf people, build relationships, and share the gospel.

\* Name changed for safety

## **Jun 16 - 22**

Mark Williams  
Birthday: Jun 20

Mark and his wife, Penny, serve as church planters on the Navajo Indian Reservation in Arizona, where they have lived



since 2014. Mark visited the reservation shortly before moving there and was asked to remodel the home of a woman and her five children since he was in the remodeling business. There were holes in the exterior walls big enough for medium-sized dogs to go through. Five of seven windows were broken out. Only one electrical outlet worked. There was not functioning tub, toilet, or sink in the bathroom. The wood stove had fallen through the living room floor. He told her he would return to do the repairs. Two months later he returned with helpers and renovated the home in three days. The woman visited his church later for several months, heard the gospel and has never looked back.

Pray for leaders being trained in the church.

## **Jun 23 – 30**

Iracema Kunkel  
Birthday: Jun 27

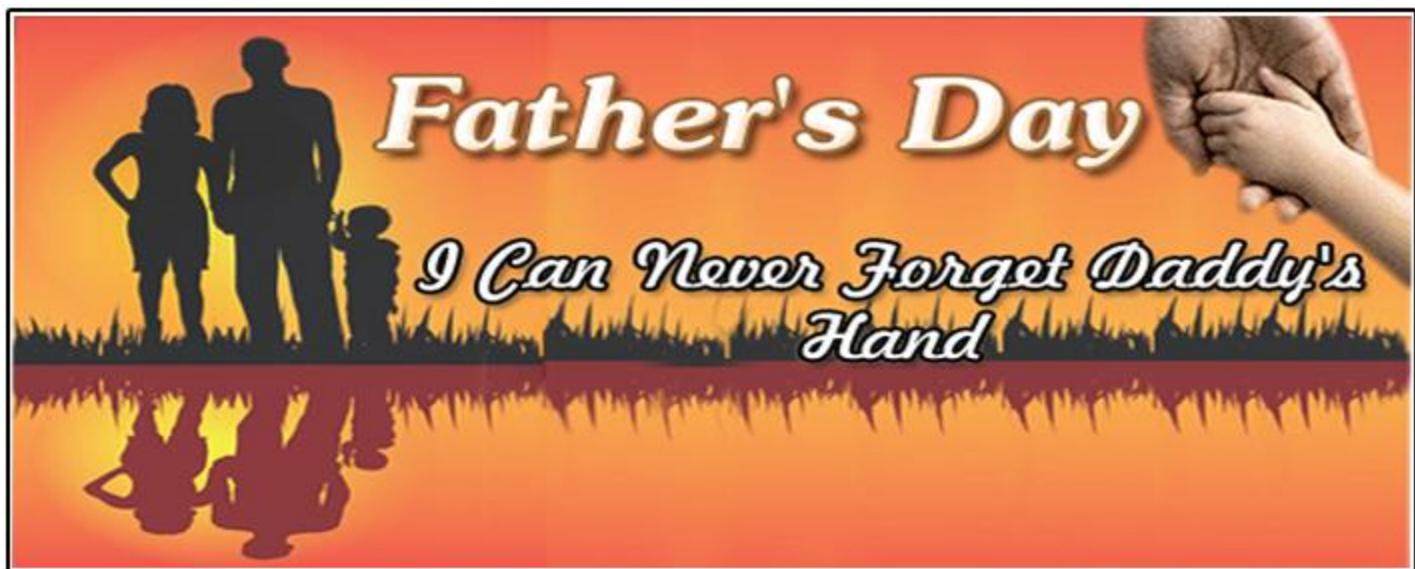
Iracema and her husband, Tim, served 15 years in Uruguay and 12 years in Paraguay. Now they serve as regional ambassadors for the American Affinity of the IMB in Chile. They are involved in evangelism and missions training. Iracema also mentors several young women who have received a call to missions.

Ask God to give Iracema wisdom. Pray that God would keep them safe as they travel throughout South America and that people would be receptive to the gospel and follow Jesus.

A Community Outreach of

**R**oanoke  
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Happy Father's Day June 21