



The Link

110 Years
Serving Jesus

3950 Wyoming, Kansas City, MO 64111
(816) 561-4392 www.roanokebaptist.org
e-mail: thelink@roanokebaptist.org

May 2020

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

THE PERFECT GIFT FOR IMPERFECT MOTHERS

Counselors and pastors encounter it all the time: stressed-out mothers who feel they are not measuring up as good parents. I'm certain fathers feel it too, but mothers are more likely to experience it on the deepest level. That's why I was so glad to find the writings of John L. Cox, clinical psychologist from Jackson, Mississippi.

In an article in the monthly magazine *Jackson Christian Family*, John Cox discusses the stresses that drive so many mothers to try for perfection. One mother told him she had thrown in the towel and was no longer worrying about being a good mother. "I've started a trust fund," she said, "to pay for my children's therapy to undo all the damage!"

Another told Dr. Cox she prays every night, "Lord, please don't let my children remember how I treated them today!" One lady told Cox the pressure to excel in child-rearing was driving her so close to the edge she had taken up pottery-making. That way, when the family committed her to the state mental institution, she would already have her craft!

Early in the twentieth century, psychiatrist and pediatrician D. W. Winnicott began studying the lives

of British families in an attempt to find the most effective form of parenting. According to Cox, Winnicott discovered that children who are the product of perfect parents actually become misfits in life. The ideal parental affection and care which they receive as children leave them completely unprepared for real life!



In time, Winnicott focused his study on solid, productive, well-adjusted adults to find what kind of parents they had had. He was surprised to discover that none of their parents were out of the ordinary. These moms and dads loved their kids and disciplined them, but made their share of mistakes. Sometimes they were distracted and selfish, sometimes too harsh or too lenient. But when they failed, they recognized it and

apologized to their children and moved on. Dr. Cox writes "And their kids were cool adults!"

Winnicott was impressed enough by his discoveries to give these parents a name: "Good Enough Parents." They were not perfect nor ideal, nor even great. But they were Good Enough.

No one can be perfect. That's the big news. But no one has to be. That's even bigger. A friend of Cox describes parenting as like rowing a boat with five holes in the bottom. With only two hands and two feet, you're going to leave some hole uncovered no matter how hard you try.

More than anything else, the emotion which psychologist John Cox sees in today's mothers is anxiety over their role as parents. He concludes, "Maybe the nicest Mother's Day gift we can give them is the freedom to not be perfect – just Good Enough."

by Joe McKeever

In This Issue

The Parable of the Trees	2
The Rusty Bird Cage	3
Spotlight on Missions	4
Library News	5
Kid's Page	6
Pray for our Missionaries	7

The Parable of the Trees

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods. They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said, "Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty."

Then the second tree said, "Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world. Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull."

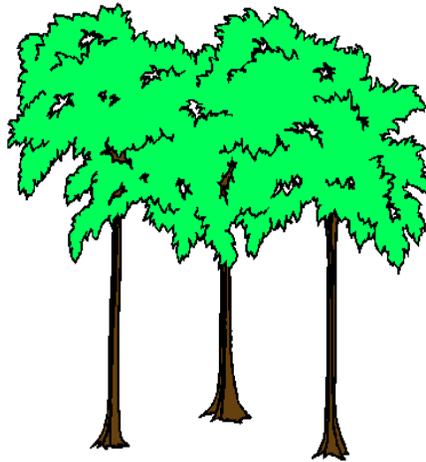
Finally the third tree said, "I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill and look up to my branches, and think of the heavens and God and how close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me."

After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, three woodsmen came to look at the trees. When the first woodsman came to the first tree he said, "This looks like a strong tree. I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter," and he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he was sure that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree the second woodsman said, "This looks like a strong tree. I should be able to sell it to the shipyard." The second tree was happy because he

was sure he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship.

When the last woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams could not come true. The woodsman said, "I don't have anything special planned, but I'll take this tree," and he cut it down.



When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for. The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end. The third tree was cut into large pieces and left alone in the dark.

The years went by, and the trees forgot about their dreams. Then one day, a man and woman came to the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this manger would have to do. The tree could

feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and he stood and said "Peace" and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings.

Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. When they came to a stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill. When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that its dream had been fulfilled. It had stood at the top of the hill and been as close to God as was possible, because Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral of this story is that when things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in him, he will give you great gifts. Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined. We don't always know what God's plans are for us. We just know that his ways are not our ways, but his ways are always best.

~ Author Unknown ~

The Rusty Bird Cage

One Sunday morning a pastor walked up to the pulpit carrying a rusty, old bird cage and set it down where everyone could see it. Eyebrows were raised and then the pastor began to speak ...

I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright. I stopped the lad and asked, "What do you have there, son?"

"Just some old birds," came the reply.

"What are you going to do with them?" I asked.

"Take 'em home and have fun with 'em," he answered. "I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time."

"But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do then?"

"Oh, I got some cats," said the little boy. "They like birds. I'll take 'em to the cats."

The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, son?"

"Huh?!?! Why, do you want them birds, mister? They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing. They ain't even pretty!"

"How much?" the pastor asked again.

The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "\$10?"

The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand and in a flash, the boy was gone. The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to a spot where there was a tree and a grassy area. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, but the birds just sat, shivering on the bottom of the cage. Finally, by softly tapping the bars and tipping the cage, the pastor persuaded the birds to leave, setting them free.



After explaining the empty bird cage the pastor began to tell this story:

One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden and he was gloating and boasting. "Yes, sir, I just caught a world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!"

"What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked.

Satan replied, "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to drink and smoke and curse. I'm gonna teach them to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!"

"And what will you do when you are done with them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, I'll kill 'em," Satan glared proudly.

"How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you. You don't want those people!"

"How much?" he asked again.

Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your blood, tears, AND your life."

Jesus said, "DONE!" Then he paid the price, dying on a cross.

The pastor picked up the cage, opened the door, and set it back down on the floor. Then he walked from the pulpit.

Do you recognize that the price for your freedom has been paid? Are you willing to accept your freedom?

Spotlight on Missions



Dear Friends,

These are strange days. As we follow directions for living I find myself asking: "God, what are you doing?"

How does Roanoke church handle days of staying home, using masks, and distancing? Washing hands we can understand. As small children we were taught "Wash your hands before you eat. It's what we do."

But how does a church function when they have to remain apart? We have found a way to be together even while we are apart. Thank you Lord for technology. By cell phone, smart phone, and computer we carry on Bible study and prayer. Ministries and missionaries need resources to continue their work so we pray and provide the resources we can.

Serious prayer should support the leaders who make the rules that affect our lives. As people who know God, we understand that there is a spiritual aspect to everything that is happening so ask God to protect and direct the thoughts and actions of those in authority. While we wait for the return of our economy, continue to pray that people will turn to God, asking Jesus to be their Lord, and then following what the Holy Spirit guides them to do.

Now, I have changed my question to: "God, what is it you have for me to do?" What a difference it will make in your life if you ask the same thing. Bear in mind that our goal is to recognize God and bring glory to his name through our faith in Jesus and following the Holy Spirit's guidance.

May the love of Jesus draw you and lead you,

Alice Claire Butler

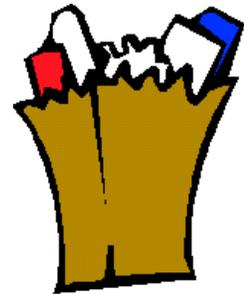
Pantry "Pleas"

And

Thank You

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

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



JOIN US

Meeting: May 17th

(if we are able to meet)

Carry-in lunch: Noon

Mission Study: 1 p.m.

Library News



May Cupcakes

May Birthdays

May 2 Richard Wissel
May 7 Charlie Floyd



Charlie and Richard

Mother ...



the original
life coach

What do the following people have in common—a prisoner of war, a well-known Christian author, an assistant editor for Life magazine, a missionary to Brazil in 1894, and the daughter of a country doctor? All have written books that are in our church library on the Biography shelves. Though not often checked out, these books offer a wealth of wonderful “life” reflections, so when you look for a good book to read until our Summer Reading Club begins, consider one of these!

I'm No Hero

by Charlie Plumb

This is the story of Charlie Plumb, prisoner of war (POW) during the Viet Nam War. It is a revealing story, picturing men who are reduced to the basics, – physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. It tells of growing relationships with God which came as a result of desperate need. It is a story of hope, for it suggests that the techniques used by POWs can be used by others to overcome situations faced in day-to-day living.

I Remember, I Remember

by Layona Glenn

Born on a Georgia plantation to a Confederate surgeon and his wife, Layona developed an independent, adventuresome spirit. Memories of the reconstruction era, of teaching in a one-room schoolhouse, of going away to Bible school against her father's wishes and becoming a missionary in Brazil, breaking up a spy ring in New York, and founding a training-school orphanage in Brazil—are all described with simplicity and skill. You will find Layona to be one of the most unforgettable people about which you have ever read.

Buggies, Blizzards, and Babies

by Cora Frear Hawkins

The experiences recounted in this book reveal a life influenced by warm childhood memories of her father, a country doctor in active practice for many years, beginning in 1882. As a child Cora accompanied him whenever possible.

Wounded Spirit

by Frank Peretti

This book chronicles the early childhood experiences of this well-known Christian author. Teased and made fun of, Peretti reflects on his “wounded spirit” and offers hope and insight to bullied children and their parents.

My Father's House

by Philip B. Kunhardt, Jr.

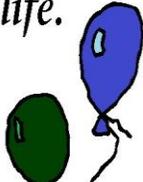
This book is more than a story about a father and a son. It is about family life as many remember it: seasons in the country, summers of fishing, special holidays like Christmas, and the indelible impressions made by a father on his son.

Happy Reading!!!

Alan Cobb



Make a treat for a Special Person in your life.

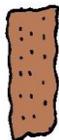


You will need:

 honey graham crackers

 a can of ready-to-spread frosting — choose your favorite flavor or a color to fit

 the occasion!
a table knife

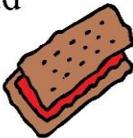


How to make:

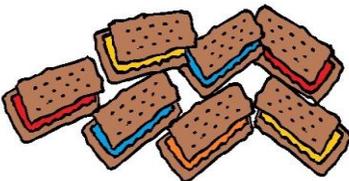
Open a package of crackers. Break cracker along marked lines into sections.

Spread with frosting.

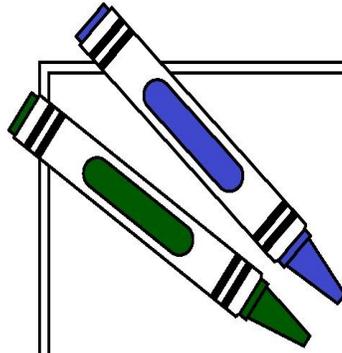
Put an unfrosted section on top.



Make as many "Sweet Treats" as you need!



Serve on a pretty plate for a special occasion.



Just for KIDS

Bible Parents and Children

All of the men and women that we read about in Bible stories were once children — just like you! Here are some Biblical parents. Can you name their children?

A verse to look up and one letter of each name is give to help you.



PARENTS

- Zechariah & Elizabeth (Luke 1:11-14) **B**
_____ **I** _____
- Ruth & Boaz (Ruth 4:13-17) **B**
_____ **B** _____
- Adam & Eve (Genesis 4:1-2) & **L**
_____ **L** _____
- Jacob & Rachel (Genesis 35:23-24) **E**
_____ **E** _____
- Isaac & Rebekah (Genesis 25:24-26) **C** & _____
- King Saul (1 Samuel 18:1) **H**
_____ **H** _____
- Abraham & Sarah (Genesis 21:2-3) **I**
_____ **I** _____
- Elkanah & Hannah (1 Samuel 1:20) **L**
_____ **L** _____
- Jesse (1 Samuel 17:12) **D**
_____ **D** _____
- Laban (Genesis 29:10) **R**
_____ **R** _____
- Mary & Joseph (Matthew 1:18) **E**
_____ **E** _____
- _____ **N**

John the Baptist, Obed, Cain & Abel, Joseph, Jacob & Esau, Jonathan, Isaac, Samuel, David, Rachel, Jesus, Samson

Pray For Our Missionaries

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

May 1 – 8

Ross Mackin
 Birthday: May 2

Ross and his wife, Shirley, have seen God's work in the lives of people in the part of Thailand where they serve. Most of the Mackins' work is in countryside villages. They go door to door sharing the gospel, then follow up with a six-week evangelistic Bible study for anyone interested. They also tell the people to invite their family, friends, and neighbors. From there, they try to start ongoing Bible studies with groups of new believers with the hope they will become a church. When the people become believers they face social pressure pushing them to turn back to Buddhism. In their hearts they believe, but they have a hard time standing against oppositions.

Ross and Shirley ask prayer for those new believers to be strong in the face of opposition. They also ask God to give them endurance, perseverance, and good health for sharing the gospel and discipling believers.

May 9 – 15

Josh McCarty
 Birthday: May 9

Josh and his wife, Jill, planted River City Church in

Grand Junction, CO. The church is founded on missional communities that meet in different neighborhoods and networks within the city. They come together twice a month for corporate worship and teaching. Recently, a woman and her daughter attended one of the missional communities. She openly shared she was skeptical of all religion and wasn't sure she believed. She enjoyed the fellowship, so she returned, asked questions, and participated in discussions about faith. Now she considers the church her family and expressed that God is working in her life.

Pray for people like her that they will respond to the Holy Spirit drawing them to believe.

May 16 - 22

Russell Woodbridge
 Birthday: May 16

Russell and his wife, Ingrid, and their children live and minister in L'viv, Ukraine. He has helped a group of believers who arrived in the city after their church in eastern Ukraine was burned down to become the

core group of a new church plant in the city. His church has grown to about 80 members and is active in social and rehabilitation ministries. He helped relaunch the Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary and it has grown from 50 to 800 students in five years. The seminary also started programs in international missions and church planting.

Russell asks prayer for funding for the seminary and his church to expand ministries.

May 23 – 31

Nokomis Gregory
 Birthday: May 23

On a short-term mission trip to Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Nokomis met Dustin, pastor of Hope Church. The next year he returned to Calgary with the NAMB GenSend program and God has continued to move Calgary on Nokomis' heart. So he is preparing to return to Calgary as a church planting resident with Hope Church where he will be part of a team helping lead a community group, plan and coordinate events, and serve as a member on the preaching team. As a church planting resident, Nokomis has to raise his own support, and so far has raised a third of what he needs. "Praise God for that!" he says. "This journey has been teaching me to rely on the Lord even more and trust that he will provide all my needs, and he is doing just that."

Nokomis asks pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send more harvesters.



A Community Outreach of

Roanoke
Baptist
Church

3950 Wyoming
Kansas City, MO 64111

Memorial Day
May 25



Mother's Day
May 10



If Jesus was not raised from death to life, why would anyone give their life for another?