



## *I've Been Thinking about . . . Music and Memory*

*by Pastor Chris*

When we are reading a psalm, most of us skip over the superscription and begin with the first verse. That is a mistake, for the superscription is not the annotation of a translator, but rather part of the inspired text of the scripture. As such, the superscription is a note from God to help us understand the psalm.

Here is a sampling of superscriptions from some psalms:

- Psalm 5: "For the director of music. For flutes. A psalm of David."
- Psalm 14: "For the director of music. Of David."
- Psalm 45: "For the director of music. To [the tune of] 'Lilies.' Of the Sons of Korah. A *maskil*. A wedding song."
- Psalm 92: "A psalm. A song. For the Sabbath day."
- Psalm 121: "A song of ascents."

So, the book of Psalms is a book of songs—a hymnbook. Our word "psalm" is an anglicization of the Greek word *psalmos*, which in turn translates the Hebrew word *mizmôr*, which means "a song accompanied by musical instruments."

Why did God give us a hymnbook? Wouldn't the words mean the same whether spoken or sung? Perhaps God is communicating something about the value of music. Brian Lowery, writing in *preaching-today.com*, notes:

Most of us would agree that singing worship songs in our gatherings is important. But do we realize just how important those songs are to our growth as believers? In a *New York Times* article entitled "In One Ear and Out the Other," Natalie Angier examines the limited power of human memory. She points out that while we can't quite seem to remember the birthday of a loved one, we can't quite forget every word of the *Gilligan's Island* theme song. Why is that? It seems that if you add a little music to something, it's more likely to be remembered. That's how the brain is wired to work. Angier writes:

Though scientists used to believe that short- and long-term memories were stored in different parts of the brain, they have discovered that what really distinguishes the lasting from the transient is how strongly the memory is engraved in the brain. . . . The deeper the memory, the more readily and robustly an ensemble of like-minded neurons will fire.

This process, of memory formation by neuronal entrainment, helps explain why some of life's offerings weasel in easily and then refuse to be spiked. Music, for example. "The brain has a strong propensity to organize information and perception in patterns, and music plays into that

## “God is Able”

Associate Pastor of Ministry Advancement & Adult Ministries  
Howard Lundeen

*“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters. (Ps. 24:1-2 NIV)*

When life is challenging and it seems as though the direction and values of society are leading our nation into further turmoil and frustration, how reassuring it is to know that this whole world was created by God and is under His sovereign control. In Psalms 50:12 we hear said once again, “the world is mine, and all that is in it.” Even though God has allowed Satan to exercise great influence in this world, “dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules over the nations.”(Ps. 22:28) If you are having a bad day, pause to remember that God has power and authority over all of creation and surely is able to comfort and provide for you. “Greater is He who is in you, than he who is in the world.” (1 Jn. 4:4b)

Heaven’s Gates & Hell’s Flames: I know I spoke in last month’s Cornerstone of how God amazingly used this outreach effort. It still thrills me as I think of how God called so many into closer relationships with Him. Janis Campagna felt strongly that God wanted to do more to encourage all of those who made decisions for Christ. Consequently, she has called on volunteers to commit to pray once a week for a year for these people (if you have not volunteered and feel God is calling you to do so, just give Janis a call). I truly believe that in response to the prayers of these saints, that God will move in a powerful way to protect all these who are seeking to follow Him from the deceitful efforts of Satan and the lures of the sinful nature to hinder their spiritual walk. I think that God’s saving grace will be poured out in a powerful way to enable all who made decisions to continue their growth in the grace and knowledge of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As God brings the names of friends to mind, whom you know stepped out in faith at Heaven’s Gates & Hell’s Flames, please take time to lift them up in prayer. Pray for the Spirit’s empowering and protection.

Front Porch Ministry: This also was a major topic in last month’s Cornerstone. I made mention of a ministry called “Front Porch” that was active in our church a few years ago. It consisted of mothers getting together to pray for children who were prodigal. I stated in that report that I believe God is calling us to rekindle this ministry in a slightly broader fashion. I envision a series of small groups where parents get together for biblical encouragement with a strong focus on prayer for their families. Right now I am seeking to develop a team who could provide leadership for such a ministry. If you have a sincere passion for a ministry like this and believe God is calling you to help with establishing it at Christ Community Church, please give me a call so we can arrange to sit down and visit.

Newcomer/Membership Class: It was a pleasure to meet with seven people in a set of two newcomer classes the end of April. Any person wishing to become a member at Christ Community Church is required to attend this series of classes. When we were addressing the need to write our own personal testimony prior to becoming a member, a few of the students in the class said they would like to have another session that focused totally on this. Wednesday evening, May 13<sup>th</sup>, nine of us met to work on developing our personal testimony. What a joy and blessing the evening proved to be. Your personal testimony is one of the most powerful tools you have in sharing the gospel of Christ with others. If you have never taken time to write your own, please feel free to contact me if you would like help in doing so...

*“For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.” Rev. 12:11 NIV*

*Pastor Howard*

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## Thoughts from a Youth Pastor

By: Zach Marino

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Last month's Cornerstone article covered Joshua. I wrote about my experience with God and how I feel sometimes I am not able to fulfill the call that He has placed on my life. When God-sized plans collide with human-sized minds, people struggle, I struggle. I mean, trying to picture the reality that God desires for me is tough! If (and that's a big if) I can understand enough to actually move forward and start living out his desires, that's a whole new struggle. Let's say we move forward in His plans, now we have God-sized plans colliding with human-sized strength, uh oh. You know though, if we really buy into the God-sized plans for our lives it seems that the strength to walk in them follows. Let's check out a verse in the NT to see if this is true!

I have been preparing for my message that I will deliver at the Waseca Baccalaureate May 24<sup>th</sup>. The main message I want to communicate to these graduating seniors is this: To have a successful journey into your college years you need faith, family and friends. Under the faith category I share with them that God has a purpose for their lives, God will give them strength to follow His purpose and if they do, they will experience joy and thanksgiving. One verse that inspired me was 2 Peter 1:3.

*"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."*

You see, God not only has put his plans and purpose in our minds and hearts but He has provided what we need to follow! For students who feel like following God just requires too much, they need to be encouraged by this verse! For those adults out there who feel like your world is too much to handle, let this verse encourage you! What is great about this verse is it refers to the source of our ability, God's divine power. Since 2 Peter is in the New Testament it was written in Greek. The Greek word for "divine" references only God and his divine nature. No other weird powers or deities can be attached to this word. For us, it means our strength and abilities are coming from the one who created this world, now that's pretty cool.

The next time you and I feel like breaking down from the stresses of life, let's remember 2 Peter 1:3. Remember we have divine power available to us. Remember that even though God has called us to follow God-sized plans, He has given us God-sized power to succeed! That is AWESOME!

Walk today in God-sized power to fulfill those God-sized plans for your life!

I'd like that God-sized please!

Pastor Zach Marino

### *Student Ministries Special Events Calendar*

Sunday School:  
9:30-10:30am

Jr. High  
FUEL (Sr. High)

20.20

Wednesday Night

**5:30-6:30pm**  
Jr High Bible Study  
Location - TBD

SALT

Sr. High  
Sundays 3p-4p  
Fireside Room

***Parent Meeting - Grades 7-12 - June 14th at 12:15***

## Book Review #11

By Jeff Stebbins  
CCC Missionary

Resource Exchange International-Vietnam



### “Elevensies”

Asked about my ‘Top Ten God Books,’ I find it easier to choose the first than the tenth, because, after ten, I have to eliminate some good ones. So here’s an easy way out: I’m going to list a number of books that all tied for eleventh.

Again, this is a *personal* list, not an ‘official’ one based upon sales or surveys. I may not enjoy your best friend as much as you do; nor do my favorite writers likely mirror yours. Max Lucado and Chuck Swindoll have encouraged countless Christians, but they don’t inspire me like *my* guys do.

Some of ‘my guys,’ though, are not *guys*. Beth Moore isn’t. Satan often tempts us with the idea that we can’t trust God, so her book, **Believing God**, counters Satan’s lies with biblical truths about God’s utter trustworthiness. He means what He says, and He keeps every promise.

Ruth Myers (another non-guy) has some wonderful books, most organized into 31 chapters for month-long studies. She wrote some of them with her late husband, Warren Myers. My favorite of these is **Praise: a Door to God’s Presence**. No book I’ve ever read more effectively employs scripture to draw readers into deeply intimate, private worship.

Jerry Bridges wrote **The Discipline of Grace** (reviewed earlier) and numerous others. **The Pursuit of Holiness** is Jerry’s most popular book for good reason, but don’t miss **The Practice of Godliness**, **Transforming Grace**, or **Trusting God**. I wish I’d read that last one *years* (rather than just months) ago. And Jerry has more good books that I look forward to reading.

John Piper—whose **Future Grace** I also reviewed—has two books with similar titles: **Desiring God** and **A Hunger for God**. The first describes what it means to “delight yourself in the Lord” (Ps. 37:4), that God wants us to find *pleasure* in knowing Him. The latter, however, may be the best book ever written about fasting (minimizing our use of food to maximize our desire for God).

If it isn’t food, it’s *money*—about which Randy Alcorn has written two great books. **The Law of Rewards** is a short condensation of the 500-page **Money, Possessions and Eternity**. Both contain biblical teachings about greed, earning, saving, spending, investing, and about “storing up treasures in Heaven.” Jesus says a lot about our relationship to money, and Alcorn helps us to live by His words.

Piper and Alcorn both refer to Richard Foster’s **Celebration of Discipline**. Few words seem further apart in meaning than *celebration* and *discipline*, but Foster cheerfully highlights the spiritual benefits of the disciplines of prayer, meditation, fasting, simplicity, and solitude. This book is deservedly a classic.

Of Philip Yancey’s several great books I like his **What’s So Amazing About Grace?** best. We are surrounded by (or are in) relationships bereft of grace, so we often need to be reminded of the amazing grace saturating all of God’s dealings with us. This book will also incline you to grow in showing grace to others around you.



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*A heart for God and you*



## Summer Schedule

Sunday, July 5 through  
Sunday, September 6th  
 One service from 9:30 – 10:45 am  
 No Sunday School classes



## Staffed Office Hours

	<u>Volunteer</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
Monday:	9:30 am - Noon	Noon – 5:00 pm
Tuesday:	=====	8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday:	9:30 am - Noon	Noon - 5:00 pm
Thursday:	=====	8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Friday:	9:30 am - Noon	Noon - 5:00 pm

### Christ Community Church Mission Statement

**As a local body of believers, we will seek to glorify God in worship, in evangelizing the unsaved and in teaching Christians to obey everything Christ commanded. To that end, prayer will be our foremost task, Scripture will be our authority, God's Holy Spirit will be our source of power and love will be our motivation.**





# MISSIONS BUZZ



## Up, Up, and Away! or Going, Going, Gone!

These are expressions which two of our missionary units would like to say represent them in their quest to reach their mission fields. These folks were added to our missions family last fall during the Faith-Promise drive. Our church family responded very favorably and with good support. However, the support level of each is not yet sufficient to allow them to begin field ministry.

**Gregg and Myriam Grano**, along with the two youngest of their three sons, have been accepted to serve at Black Forest Academy (BFA) in Kandern, Germany. BFA is an accredited international Christian school providing an English language education for grades 1-12. With an enrollment of approximately 350 students from all around the globe, it serves the children of missionaries and international business families who want a North American curriculum that incorporates a Christian worldview.

Gregg and Myriam both have extensive international ministry experiences which have led them to this point ~ a belief that God is calling them to a teaching ministry at BFA. Gregg will teach math, and Myriam is fluent in French and German, skills which will be valuable to BFA in some way, although exactly how is not yet decided.

At this point, they are a little over 70% in their financial support. That translates to about another \$500 in monthly pledges needed to reach the needed 80% required. Obviously, the ultimate goal is to reach 100% of their support. Their departure date is set for August 10th. They plan to get there in time to take part in the staff orientation and 'set up house' before school begins on August 25th.

**Ruth Johnson** (Ruthie, as we know her ~ daughter of Pastor Chris & Rhonda) was thoroughly involved in Campus Crusade for Christ throughout her college life at Minnesota State University-Mankato. Since graduation, she has been accepted by Campus Crusade for a ministry at Steven's Point, Wisconsin. Still in Mankato, Ruthie has been working to raise support, while at the same time continuing her ministry at MSU **and** working to support herself!

At the University of Wisconsin, Steven's Point, Ruthie will have an evangelistic and discipleship ministry to university students, specializing in reaching the LBG (Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Gay, Transsexual) community. Her support level is around 45% at present, but she's still about \$1900 short in monthly pledges to reach the level required to go. One prayer request she has is that her ministry team (that's us...her supporters!) will be built up quickly, so she can move to Steven's Point soon.

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*Support currently being given to these individuals is being held by their organizations for their future use. **If you would like to join the team of either of these missionary units and help send them on their way**, please contact Merilee at the church office or complete a pledge form at the Information Booth. The Granos and Ruthie are the feet of Christ going to places where we will not, to serve those we cannot!*

# MISSIONS BUZZ



## "Kick Off the Summer with Missions"

This will be a summer of opportunities to hear what God is doing through our missionaries around the world. Please note these dates and plan to join us for these special events.

Monday, June 22nd - Welcome **Mike, Ann & Amanda Wheeler** as they return to Waseca.

Sunday, June 28th - **Steve & Tanja Pankratz** and family will be with us during the services to report on their return to Bulgaria.

Sunday, July 5th - **Jerry & Gina Krause** will be with us to give an update on their ministry in Mali, Africa.

**Fellowship hour** - A roundtable discussion featuring several of our missionary families (**Grano, Ferris, Krause, Wheeler, Ruthie Johnson, and ?**).

**Noon** - Old-time barbeque - hot dogs, chips, hamburgers, drinks, funnel cakes and caramel apples! (Watermelon, anyone?)

**5:00 pm** - Prayer service with **Jaypee & Myleen Cawili**, Filipino missionaries to the Philippines.

Sunday, July 19th - **Mike & Mary Jacobson** will be with us. Mike will preach in the morning service, with a presentation about their family's ministry in the Arab Gulf to follow during a fellowship hour.

Sunday, August 23rd - **Mike Wheeler** will be preaching in the morning service.

We have an opportunity for a **SHORT TERM MISSION** experience when Habitat for Humanity comes to Waseca. Christ Community Church will have 2 workdays, in June and July. ***Please sign up at the Info Booth to be part of the team!***

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### *I've Been Thinking about . . . Music and Memory*

inclination," said Michael Thaut, a professor of music and neuroscience at Colorado State University. . . .

A simple melody with a simple rhythm and repetition can be a tremendous mnemonic device. "It would be a virtually impossible task for young children to memorize a sequence of 26 separate letters if you just gave it to them as a string of information," Dr. Thaut said. But when the alphabet is set to the tune of the ABC song with its four melodic phrases, preschoolers can learn it with ease.

In other words, the hymns or choruses we sing—which combine Scriptural truths with moving melodies—teach us things that won't easily be forgotten. That should probably give us pause—pause to reflect on the value of what we have in the hymnals tucked away in our pews; pause to revisit what is being projected on the screens that line the front of our worship auditoriums; pause to remember that God has given us a powerful tool in music and its potent relationship to human memory.

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### "Elevensies"

Christians ought to live like 'Christ's ones,' don't you think? So does Dallas Willard, author of *The Divine Conspiracy*. He may be a philosophy professor, but Willard's book is more practically realistic, less abstract, than I expected. And he has the refreshing audacity to believe that Jesus means what He says when He calls us, in the Holy Spirit's power, to live His new kind of life.

Foster and Yancey (above) each have *great* books on prayer, but my favorites were written earlier, in the 1880s to 1930s, by men in South Africa, Scotland, and Norway. In *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, Andrew Murray uses Jesus' prayers, and His teachings about prayer, to train us to pray as Jesus did. David M'Intyre's *The Hidden Life of Prayer* inclines us to depend upon the Holy Spirit when we engage our hearts and minds in worship, confession and requests. We have much to gain from praying in a quiet place, in a quiet hour, with a quiet heart. Ole Hallesby, finally, teaches helpless dependence upon God in his book simply entitled *Prayer*. Our 'best' prayers, he says, are those in which our hearts cry out in helplessness to the tender heart of our all-powerful Father.

Another Scot, A. W. Pink, wrote *The Attributes of God* in 1918. Like A. W. Tozer's *The Knowledge of the Holy* (reviewed last month) on the same topic, it is worshipful, and chock-full of scripture. Pink's books are rarely in stores, but some are sold online.

I've read other great books, but I have to stop *somewhere*. How about here?

**If God said you had just one year left to live, would you say, "So many TV shows, and so little time!" - or would you use your time to grow in godliness? These are just a few of the good books available to help you do the latter.**

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> <u>9:30-11:30am</u> Women's Bible Study  <u>6:30-8:30pm</u> Precepts Bible Study	<b>2</b> <u>7:00-9:00pm</u> Congregational Care Commission Meeting <u>7:00-9:00pm</u> Property Commission Meeting	<b>3</b> <u>6:30pm</u> Worship Team Practice	<b>4</b> <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Bible Study  <u>7:00-9:00pm</u> Women's Bible Study	<b>5</b> <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group  <u>9:30-11:30am</u> Women's Bible Study	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <u>8:00-9:15am</u> <b>Worship Service</b> <u>9:30-10:30</u> <b>Sunday School</b> <u>10:45-12:00</u> <b>Worship Service</b> <u>12:00</u> <i>Newcomers Luncheon</i> <u>3:00-4:00</u> SALT <u>5:00-6:00</u> Prayer	<b>8</b> <u>6:30-8:30pm</u> Precepts Bible Study	<b>9</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;">           Pastor Chris &amp; Rhonda will be on vacation thru June 15th.         </div>	<b>10</b> <u>6:30pm</u> Worship Team Practice	<b>11</b> <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study  <u>7:00-9:00pm</u> Women's Bible Study	<b>12</b> <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group  <u>9:30-11:30am</u> Women's Bible Study	<b>13</b> <u>6:00am</u> Journeymen Leader Team Meeting
<b>14</b> <u>8:00-9:15am</u> <b>Worship Service</b> <u>9:30-10:30</u> <b>Sunday School</b> <u>10:45-12:00</u> <b>Worship Service</b> <u>12:15</u> Parent Mtg. <u>3:00-4:00</u> SALT <u>5:00-6:00</u> Prayer	<b>15</b> <u>6:30-8:30pm</u> Precepts Bible Study	<b>16</b> <u>6:30pm</u> <b>Elder Meeting</b>	<b>17</b> <u>6:30pm</u> Worship Team Practice	<b>18</b> <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Bible Study  <u>7:00-9:00pm</u> Women's Bible Study	<b>19</b> <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group  <u>9:30-11:30am</u> Women's Bible Study	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <u>8:00-9:15am</u> <b>Worship Service</b> <u>9:30-10:30</u> <b>Sunday School</b> <u>10:45-12:00</u> <b>Worship Service</b> <u>3:00-4:00</u> SALT <u>5:00-6:00</u> Prayer  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <i>Happy Father's Day!</i> </div>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <u>6:30pm</u> Worship Team Practice	<b>25</b> <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Bible Study  <u>7:00-9:00pm</u> Women's Bible Study	<b>26</b> <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Men's Group  <u>9:30-11:30am</u> Women's Bible Study	<b>27</b> <u>9:30-12:00</u> Empty Nester Picnic Potluck Brunch  
<b>28</b> <u>8:00-9:15am</u> <b>Worship Service</b> <u>9:30-10:30</u> <b>Sunday School</b> <u>10:45-12:00</u> <b>Worship Service</b> <u>3:00-4:00</u> SALT <u>5:00-6:00</u> Prayer <u>6:30</u> Congregational Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px;"> <p>See page 5 of the Cornerstone for this summer's worship Schedule which begins July 5th</p> </div>				