



the *Calvary Caller*

Volume 49

August 2025

Number 7

"I go a fishing"

By the time you get this letter we should be in Moldova laboring away in the Christian camp with the love of Christ. Janna and the family have been deeply involved with working in the camp, VBS, playing their violins and Janna playing the piano and singing. I was going to say this has been the longest two months of my life, but now that it is time to go it feels like it has flown by. We hope and pray that God blesses our efforts, and that someone comes to saving faith in the Lord Jesus. Please keep Team Moldova in your prayers while we go fishing for souls.

"I go a fishing" is what Peter said in the KJV. He said that when he was discouraged, had denied Christ three times, and was going back to what Christ had called him from. Have you ever been on that boat? It's possible you have been there so long you have started to think that this is the way it is supposed to be. They fished all night and caught nothing! God is so determined to have His children believe Him and act in obedience; He made every cast of the net come back empty! How did He do that? He is God! They fished all night, and not even a minnow. As we pick up where they were when Jesus tell them in John 21:6, "And He said to them, Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some. So they cast their net, and now they were not able to draw it because of the multitude of fish." They did what Jesus told them to do. How wide was their boat? When there is disobedience, an inch might as well be a mile. As they did what they were told, they were blessed with more

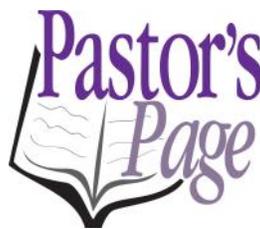
than they could haul in. Let's put this in shoe leather. What I mean by that is, let's see if we can learn something form this and put some action behind it as we act in obedience. We know we are to share the Gospel. We also know that our greatest witness is that we love one another as He has loved us. With obedience to His Word, with love and truth guiding us we just might find a lot of souls in our community that need to come to Jesus by faith that He is Lord!

Have you been fishing for souls this summer? Have any come in by the net of the Gospel? If not, it doesn't mean that we are disobedient, but it doesn't hurt to ask as we do some soul searching. As we engage people with the truth in love let us be careful that we don't fall into any of the traps that are so prevalent. Pastor John MacArthur went to heaven this past month. He gives 10 things we want to be on the lookout for as we endeavor to reach souls for Christ.

Ten steps to becoming a "Pragmatic Church"

1. "Easy-believism" gospel.
2. Place emphasis on some "work" for salvation and not the need to recognize and approach a holy God.
3. Teach half-truths.
4. Teach that grace replaces (instead of produces) holiness.
5. Teach that love and truth are opposed and obedience is legalism or optional.
6. Use fleshly things to attract unbelievers for evangelism and teach them that carnal, worldly lifestyles are acceptable.

(continued on page 2)



7. Avoid the Biblical teachings that create humility in man and exalt God.
8. Teach the means of grace are optional.
9. Be "seeker-friendly" and avoid being "offensive."
10. Place being "relatable" above "biblical accuracy."

What a profound list. I thank God for Pastor John MacArthur. These 10 things are bait we do not want use. Let us cast the gospel net in love and obedience, fearing God more than man.

There is at least one or two people who want to be baptized in the near future (September). Let us pray and know that God desires souls to be saved far more than we do. If we are not willing, He will find someone else. "I go a fish-

ing" does anyone want to go with me? Let us fish at Calvary Cares, Special Needs, TrailLife, Sunday School and as many doors that God will open for us. Let us cast the net on the right side, God's side where Jesus is high and lifted up. Where His Word is like a hammer that breaks hard hearts and replaces it with a new one. As we give a clear call to all to repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, who knows what God might do.

As someone has said, "The Gospel is only good news if it gets there fast enough." Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Let's go!

Pastor David

STUDENT MINISTRY

It always seems like celebrities die in groups or in "packs of three". Over the course of a week it seems like we lost several prominent people. To name a few: Hulk Hogan, world famous wrestler who had recently become a believer in Jesus. And spent the last part of his life going around telling people about it and Him. Chuck Mangione, excellent jazz trumpeter, not as famous as the other folks in this article. Most people knew his name from watching episodes of King of the Hill. And then there was Ozzy Osbourne... So many things we could say about Ozzy. I think I'll just leave it at that.

However, seemingly glossed over and not given the recognition for a lifelong work and faithful ministry, was the death of Dr. John MacArthur. Pastoring the same church for over 50 years. (that alone should be recognized) Renowned preacher, pastor, author and theologian John MacArthur was 86 when he passed.

Prominent, prolific, and at times polarizing, MacArthur had a strong influence on Christians globally through his preaching at Grace Community Church, his books, The Master's University (which he once led), and his Grace to You media ministry.

MacArthur was deeply committed to expository preaching, going through entire books of the Bible on Sunday mornings at his church, much like we do at Calvary. He finished a 42-year long sermon series on the entire New Testament in 2011.

MacArthur gained a following for his strong stances on a number of doctrinal issues: he was a firm Calvinist; he wrote books disputing charismatic theology (he was a committed cessationist); he often spoke out against same-sex marriage and became embroiled in controversy during the Covid crisis when he refused government orders to shut down worship services. Those events are captured in a pretty good, all be it lengthy, documentary called The Essential Church, released in 2023. A California court eventually ruled in favor of the church being able to continue worship.

MacArthur was/is my favorite preacher. I have often referred to him as the Charles Spurgeon of our age. He was faithful to God's word from the pulpit. When other pastors started to wobble under the influence of trendy ideologies, MacArthur was a rock, standing up to the government in California, and proclaiming the Biblical view of marriage to a national audience on Larry King.

Like all preachers and pastors, MacArthur was a flawed man in need of a Savior. But we need more men like John MacArthur in the church, especially now that this man has departed to be with Christ. As the Grace to You ministry said after his death: "His faith became sight, and he faithfully endured until his race was won."

Reuben



Thanks be to God for His Spirit that continues to open our understanding of the scriptures. Also, thank God for the servants of God who have preceded us. I am especially indebted to those, "holy men for God who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21)." Combined with taking the apostle Paul's wisdom in Romans 15 where he says, "whatever things were written before were written for our learning..." I thank God for the insight of men from the past like H.A. Ironside. Ironside has helped me recently to gain more insight into the crucifixion of Jesus. So, I am writing it down in order to sear it into my memory.

Being true to whom God has transformed me to be, again I am drawn to Bible Trivia. Being of this mind, I am drawn to what is missing in the crucifixion story as recorded by John. The Old Testament foreshadowed the work of the cross in four bloody offer-

ings commanded by God in the book of Leviticus. One offering commanded by God was not a blood sacrifice. The meal offering typifies the perfect humanity of Jesus. The Peace offering shows Messiah, in Luke's gospel, making peace possible by the blood of His cross. Mark's gospel speaks to Christ being made sin for us. He died for both what we have done and for what we are. Matthew speaks of the trespass offering. Jesus died for our imputed sin and also for our sins. Matthew, Mark, Luke portray the 3 hours of darkness as it relates to humanity. But, John gives us the burnt offering as a word picture of Jesus dying to glorify the Father. The focus of God's glory is explicit to why 3 hours of darkness are not mentioned by John. Also, the cry of anguish is missing from John's gospel. What was the original question? "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken Me?" This cry contains the whole answer!

Curtis



What a great summer for the children's department! We have studied about how God created the earth. During our trips to Briarwood Safari and Bays Mountain, we were able to see some of the animals that God created. It was really fun to get up close to the deer, zebra, and buffalo. While at church, the children were able to be creative and paint some of the cool creatures that God created. What an awesome God we serve! I hope the children enjoyed the fun as they continue to grow in Christ.

We are looking ahead to starting our Adventure Club Curriculum on Wednesday evenings. This fall semester we will be studying "Man, Sin and Salvation". We read in Romans 3:23, "All have sinned and

fall short of the glory of God." We are so thankful for the great love of Jesus and that He shed His innocent blood for us. May the Word of God penetrate the young hearts and minds of every child that enters Calvary Baptist Church.

During Sunday School, the children will continue to study "Answers In Genesis". During the Sunday worship service, we are studying through the Old Testament. Adventure Club will be starting at 5:30-7pm on Wednesdays. Please use the CBC Erwin app to be informed of upcoming events. Please contact me if you want to be involved with the children's department. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Prayerfully,
Alicia Smith

A WORD ABOUT WORSHIP

Psalm 103 is an amazing song of worship that celebrates God's mercy. Consider the verbs in the first five verses: forgives, heals, redeems, crowns, satisfies. Such are the actions of God towards those who are His. In contrast consider humankind, we are "dust," and are "like grass" or a flower of the field which briefly blooms and is gone then forgotten (vs. 14-16).

However, the mercy of God is eternal to those who follow Him. It is clear we are not worthy of consideration at all. But look at the scope of His mercy:

"For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west,

so far has He removed our transgressions from us (vs 11-12)."

That points straight to Jesus who first, bore our sins, and then removed them.

I challenge you to set aside some time for personal worship and read Psalm 103 in its entirety. Read it several times and contemplate what God's great mercy means in your life, you'll find yourself in agreement with verse one:

*"Bless the Lord,
O my Soul,
And all that is within me,
Bless His holy name!"*

Mike



Happy Birthday



August

1 Martha Silvers, Geraldine Banks, Grace Clark, Shannon Engle, 4 Dallas Lloyd, 5 Hugh Barker, Thomas Cooper, 6 Dave Burgner, Marie Honeycutt, 8 Nathanael Crutchfield, 10 Casey Pate, 11 Ian Marotta, Susie Riddle, Oziah Ricker, 13 Jennifer Bennett, 14 Terri Graham, 15 Betty Stephens, 16 Madelyn Crawford, 17 Scott Rainey, 18 Elizabeth Pleasant, Levi Graham, Mike Durham, 19 Pam Solomon, Allan Solomon, 27 Peggy Barker, 28 Darryl Bryant, Bill Gray, 29 Judy Colinger

Memorial & Honorarium Offerings

In Memory of

Shirley Wilson

by

Teresa Collins

Dorcas/Homemakers S.S. Class

Sherrill & Yvonne Cox

Louise Smith

Bonnie Barnett

by

Sheldon & Tina Roark to Consolidated Missions

Chuck Stanford

by

Gary & Pam Amos to Calvary Cares

Charles & Lynn Ray to Consolidated Missions

Sally Ramsey

by

Kathy Allen

Juanita Engle to Consolidated Missions

Gary & Pam Amos to Calvary Cares

Joann Cole to Calvary Cares

Diana Davis to Consolidated Missions

David & Jane Burgner to Consolidated Missions

Leonard & Jean Bowman to Consolidated Missions

Dorcas/Homemakers S.S. Class to Building Fund

Tommy & Phyllis Bennett to Calvary Cares



Services are broadcast on Facebook Live

Connect with us online

Website - <https://calvaryerwin.org>
Email - calvaryerwintn@gmail.com

 Calvary Baptist Church of Erwin Tn
Sun. Service is live on Facebook 10 am

 Calvary Baptist of Erwin Tn

 @CalvaryErwin



Service times at
Calvary

SUNDAY

10:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
6:00 p.m.

Sunday School
Morning Worship
Evening Worship
Youth Bible Study
Calvary Kids

WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

Calvary Kids
Youth & Adult
Bible Study
Choir Practice

THE CALVARY CALLER published monthly (except July and December)

The Printed Ministry of Calvary Baptist Church

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