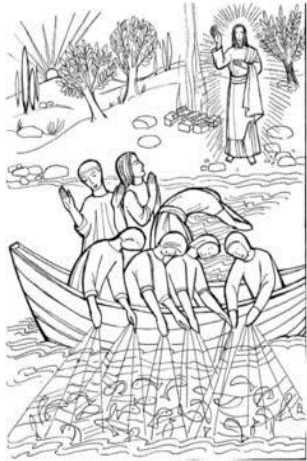


“God of the Second Chance”

Rev. David J. Bauer



Have you ever thought that your life was beyond repair? That you have “blown it” for the last time? That God could not possibly forgive you for yet another failure? Unfortunately, it is human to fail. Words of the Apostle Paul, “Oh wretched man that I am!” reflecting upon his constant battle with his flesh –Romans 7:24a. Though it is human to fail, it is Divine to forgive. We can take encouragement in words of our Lord, “...The one who comes to me I will in no way cast out” –John 6:37b. And then Jesus declared, “Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” –Matthew 11:28. God is aware that we will fail many times in this life and will need a chance to repent and turn around: “He knows our frame: He remembers that we are dust” –Psalm 103:14.

Even Cain (Adam’s 1st son) was allowed a do-over. God said to him, “Why are you angry?...If you do well will you not be accepted? If you do not well, sin lies at the door...” –Genesis 4:6-7. Fortunately for us our God is a forgiving God and allows us another chance: a do-over.

Our God allows us “U-Turns.” He gives each of us another chance!

One of the very best examples of our Lord’s power to forgive and grant a second chance would be in the life of Simon Peter. Peter denied that he ever knew Jesus. He did this publicly three times and finalized it with a curse!

However, before this even happened, Jesus spoke words of encouragement to Peter in Luke 22:31, 32. Jesus reminded Peter that Satan would desire to sift the disciples as wheat is sifted. But He also added: “*But I have prayed for you, that your faith fail not. And when you are converted, strengthen the brethren.*” Peter’s immediate response was, “*Lord, I am ready to go into prison, and to death*” –Luke 22:33.

A saddened and embarrassed Peter would not go to prison this time. But when interrogated openly, he very vocally denied Jesus three times, while warming himself by the coals of the Roman fire. Jesus (bound at this time, but within range) turned and looked at Peter. As predicted by Jesus earlier, a rooster crowed after the third denial. Peter fled the scene and wept bitterly. All was over. He was finished. He had done the one thing he said he would never do – he denied his Lord, the final time with a curse on his lips.

Jesus grace and mercy for Peter represents a second chance.

In John 21, just a couple weeks later the resurrected Jesus meets His disciples at the Lake of Galilee. Peter and six others have fished all night and caught no fish. On their Lord’s command they cast their net over the other side of the boat. The net was immediately filled with fish. “*It is the Lord!*” Peter exclaims jumping into the water, swimming to shore. Upon Jesus’ command, Peter dragged the net in with 153 fish in it. “*Come and dine!*” said Jesus. Jesus had fish and bread already on the coals of His fire.



Rev. David J. & Dolores Bauer
Director & Office Assistant

It is here by a “*fire of coals*” where Peter is asked a hard question three times: “*Simon, son of Jonah, Do you love me more than these?*” and “*Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me?*” (2X) –John 21:15-17.

Peter can only reply, “*...Lord, You know all things; You know that I love (lit. ‘like’) you...*” Our Lord’s response each time was: “*Feed (or shepherd) my sheep (little lambs).*”

FIRST, Jesus is very concerned about those He shed His life’s blood to save. Nothing is dearest to our Savior’s heart that the objects of His great love: His little lambs and sheep.

SECOND, our Lord knew that the only motivation for Peter (and for our own) service to Him would be love (2 Cor. 5:14). Hirelings cannot feed and protect His sheep. So this question: “*Do you really love Me?*” Peter initially denied Jesus three times by a *fire of coals*. And it is by a second *fire of coals* he confesses his love for the Savior three times.

FINALLY, there is a solemnity in Jesus’ predictive words as to how Peter will one day die –John 21:18. The end of Peter’s live will result in prison and death on a cross upside down for NOT denying the name of Jesus. But Peter would be greatly used 50 days after denying Jesus and cussing, when filled with the Holy Spirit he would lead the church on the Day of Pentecost, preaching Christ and baptizing 3,000 new Jewish converts! Peter was given a second chance! Jesus’ final command to Peter on the shore was: “*(You) Follow Me!*” (John 21:19, 22)

Like in the life of Peter, (fortunately) God does allow us U-turns in our lives.

But the question each of us must face is: Do we really love Him?

If we really do love him, His final command would be for us too: “Follow Me!”

What is a Church?

A Church is never a place, but always a People; never a fold, but always a Flock; never a sacred building, but always a believing Assembly.

A structure of brick or marble can no more be a Church than your clothes of cotton or satin can be you.

There is in the world nothing sacred but Mankind; no sanctuary of God but the Soul! On earth, man alone is the habitation of God!

Dr. Chuck Svoboda’s One Liners:

Pray for patience and you will receive a freight car load of trouble! “*...Tribulation worketh patience and patience, experience and experience hope.*” –Romans 5:3-4

Christians (Born again believers) can never break their union with God, but they can break their communion with God! “*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.*” –Psalm 66:18



August Cooler!

Easy to Make Cool, Cherry Pineapple Fluff

- 1 Medium Cool Whip
- 1 Medium Can Condensed Milk
- 1 Medium Can Crushed Pineapple (drained)
- 1 Medium Can Cherry Pie Filling

Mix Cool Whip and Condensed Milk together gently.

Add drained Crushed Pineapple and Cherry Pie Filling.

Put this in a fancy dish to set, refrigerate and serve cold. So Cool!

–From Eleanor Svoboda



A couple ways to fix Nicks or Scratches on furniture:
If dark wooden furniture is beginning to show its age, make a thick paste of Instant Coffee and Water, rub paste into scratched or nicked areas to camouflage the flaws. One may also use different shades of Paste Shoe Polish rubbed in and wiped with a paper towel to accomplish the same.

Don't Leave Home Without It: If you – Like most of us – have a problem remembering to take packages or letters that need mailing with you when you leave the house, try this: Place your keys on top of the pile of stuff for a “can't miss” reminder!

Remove a Pencil Mark or Stain out of a shirt or blouse: Use a drop or two of WD 40 on the stain. Rub and blot with paper towels on both sides. Then rub in Liquid Laundry Detergent and wash to remove trace of stain and WD 40. This works on the majority of stains.

Remember also, WD 40 sprayed on hands will soften most sticky caulks, paint, greasy substance and pipe dope; then wash with soap and rinse with warm water.

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Leave a legacy for your family & favorite ministries. When planning a legacy, give Terry L. Balko a call at 404-229-1645 or email Mr. Balko for forms and details at terrylbalko@gmail.com. Don't let your hard earned life-savings go into a probate bureaucracy! NOT PLANNING is a plan, but it is NOT a very good plan!

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Bible Related Ministries Newsletter

Rev. David J. Bauer, Director



2024

“And the things that you have heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also.” -2 Timothy 2:2

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Rev. David J. Bauer's BRM Itinerary



Aug. 18 Community Bible Church, Warsaw, IN
10:15 a.m. Installation Service, New Pastor

Aug. 25 Parker Road Bible Church, Mokena, IL
10:30 a.m. BRM Missions Report

BRM Interims and Associates Engaged in Ministry:

>Rev. Steve Barack, BRM Associate - Sr. Pastor of Lisle Bible Church, Lisle, IL

>Dr. Al Carsen, Sr. BRM Associate - Pastor of Merson Church, Merson, MI

>Dr. Joe Stewart, BRM Associate - Pastor of Grace Bible Church, Dallas City, IL

>Rev. Darwyn Hassert, BRM Associate - Smyrna Bible Church (and vicinity), MI, preaches and assists as needed in nearby areas

>Rev. Don Zimmerman, Interim Pastor of Western Springs Baptist Church, IL

>Rev. Clark Seefeldt, Interim Pastor of Cornerstone Community Church, Brookfield, IL

>Rev. Jim Vyleta, Interim Pastor West Madison Bible Church, Madison, WI

Call BRM for a Sunday Preacher! 708-579-3800/3801

Lighter Side: Success for Long Healthy Life

An active, aged man was asked, “*To what do you attribute your long life and your excellent health?*”

“*Well it is this way,*” he replied, “*When I got married over sixty years ago, my wife and I decided we would never quarrel. And I promised when I got mad at her, I would go for a walk until I cooled off. So you see sir, I've had a life of vigorous exercise.*”

Through the Eyes of the Beholder

The pessimist sees darkness in the tunnel.

The optimist sees light on the tunnel's end.

The realist sees the lamps of coming train.

The engineer sees three idiots on the rails.

BRM Field Report #8

July has flown by, with an unusual amount of activity happening in our churches this summer:

A Bible Church in Warsaw, Indiana has found a pastor after a 3½ year search. Elders have ministered in the pulpit mostly this time. The new pastoral family is from a nearby town in Indiana! Rev. Bauer and Dolores plan to participate in the Installation on August 18, Lord willing.

A local church in Brookfield, Illinois has voted on and accepted a new pastor. We anticipate his moving into the parsonage this September, and look forward to some great years ahead for this church. Our BRM Interim Pastor, Rev. Clark Seefeldt has faithfully led this church during this past year.

A church on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan has found a possible candidate after only several months without a pastor. Pray for the ongoing interview process and for a good consent vote. BRM has advised the board during this interim process. Several semi-retired pastors have stepped into filling the pulpit, keeping the ministry going forward and giving hope to the folks there.

Another local church in the Chicago land suburbs has voted on and consented to a new pastor. This church has been under the leadership of an Interim Pastor and searching for a suitable candidate for almost four years.

There are still several churches looking for pastoral candidates in different areas of our country: One up in Michigan, a couple in Illinois, Wisconsin and another in Washington State. These are only the ones which have come across our radar and asked for our assistance.

And then there are pastors seeking counsel: There are some looking for churches, some thinking of staying or leaving. How long is too long to stay in a church? Is it time to retire? Questions for BRM...

BRM facilitates special needs of churches regularly. Thanks for praying for our team!

Sincerely,

Rev. David J. Bauer -2 Timothy 1:7