INNERGLOW

First Reformed Church
Boyden, IA
LaVonne Sletstra & Teresa Harms, Editors

DADS ARE MOST ORDINARY MEN TURNED BY LOVE INTO HEROES, ADVENTURERS, STORY-TELLERS, AND LIFE LONG FRIENDS

June 2019
During my devotions recently I came across two verses that called me out of my complacency. The two verses are:

**Jeremiah 24:7**

*I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart.*

I realized that God had promised the people they could have a heart to know Him. Therefore, the God who never changes has also promised me I can have a heart to know Him, not just know about Him, but really get to know Him personally. I began praying that God would give me that kind of heart.

I read this verse too:

**Jeremiah 32:39**

*I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me for their own good and the good of their children after them.*

God also promised His people that not only could they know Him intimately, but in addition, He would help them carry out that heart in the things they did. They wouldn’t simply believe a truth; they would actually begin to live truth. Oh God, let me live so singly to you that my children will love and follow you. May those I lead develop a “singleness of heart and action.”

Bonnie is reading a book about 7 spiritually alive women who gave themselves wholeheartedly to the Kingdom of God. (You can ask her the title). She told me the story of a woman who became a nun just prior to WW II. She became a deep-rooted Christian who thought of others before herself. During the war she hid Jewish people and was imprisoned in a concentration camp. While there she distributed whatever she could to the needy and just a few months prior to the end of WW II, she took the place of someone who was to be executed by hanging and she perished.

Bonnie and I had an interesting conversation about her courage. “Do you think you have the courage to do something like that?” I asked. Bonnie’s response: “I don’t think so. At least not at this moment with this level of faith.” She said. I am quite certain that I don’t have that courage either I said. “Do you think that makes us cowards?” I asked? Maybe!
Last Sunday was Communication Sunday. During that event we talked about the financial needs of First Reformed Church. Many stepped up and we are blessed by their giving. Thank You!! But what was really impressive was the fact that people put the good of church (God’s people) over their own future. That takes courage and faith that God will bless the future!!

I found myself thinking about the issue of giving to need which is what we often talk about. As a person who thinks about our God, I am concerned that our thinking about our actions will lead to confusion. People give, not out of need but because God is Lord and owns everything. Most of the time we act as if we own all that we have. We live with a scarcity mindset. Here’s a secret: God owns it all! He builds the faith of a congregation experience by experience of his unfailing grace and abundance. And we have certainly had an illustration of God moving in people’s hearts to give in the month of April.

When we are blessed with money and material things and when we receive acclaim for any accomplishment, we’re getting not what we deserve but what God in His grace lovingly allows us to enjoy and celebrate. The essence of life is not ownership, but stewardship—which is the faithful management of all that God has given and entrusted to us. Some of us have a lot and some of us have less but whatever we have, it brings with it an undeniable responsibility to use what we have to serve the God who gave it to us originally.

As I close this article, I’d like to tell a little story about Moses. When Moses was charged by God to build a Tabernacle, Moses asked the people to give to the Tabernacle. The people rose to the occasion. The people were so awestruck by God, that they gave and gave in such abundance that the builders were overwhelmed and came to Moses to report the overage. And Moses proclaimed that the people should stop giving. (Amazing, what would happen if I said, please don’t give any more to our projects because we have more than we need! Would it shock you?).

The offering of the Jews in the wilderness teaches that the Israelites and, by extension, each one of us by implication that BLESSED BELIEVERS LIVE AND GIVE ABOVE AND BEYOND.

I am curious if we have the courage as a community of faith to live with true courage and single mindedness to honor and trust God enough to give sacrificially.
*all those who contributed a picture of their mom and themselves for the Mother’s Day Powerpoint.

*Teresa for putting the Mother’s Day powerpoint together.

*God to continue to work in and through each one of us.

*all Fathers on Father’s Day and everyday!

*all teachers and volunteers for their dedication and love for our young people this past year – both in church and in school.

*compassion shown to others in a time of need.

*the blessings of birthdays and anniversaries.

*the baptism of Nayomi Grace Reiser, daughter of Jaycee Darnell and Ryan Reiser

*answers to personal prayers.

*all graduates.

*everyone who gave financially to the church to help with the recent financial crisis.

*our pastor, consistory & congregational family who believe in Boyden First Reformed Church and are willing to work together and allow God to work through them in building His church!
Pray for...

*good attendance at the new Men’s Bible Study beginning June 1st!

*many mothers’ and baby supplies for the Mother/Baby Baskets for Center of Hope.

*all the students and volunteers at Boyden Vacation Bible School this year.

*Dustin Fykstra on his trip overseas.

*safety for all our military men and women.

*relief from personal disappointments, frustrations & heartache.

*our church – that it may be a place where we experience God’s grace!

*safety for farmers as they work in their fields.

*each member of Boyden First Reformed Church.

*the Consistory – our Elders and Deacons.

*Pastor Dave & Bonnie Poppen.

*good weather that will be beneficial to the crops.

*God to use you to do His work!

*the Reformed Church in America.

God is everywhere, so we can pray anywhere.

PeterDeHaan.com
SUNSHINE FOR THE MONTH:

Funny Dad Memes!

For all the dads who took the time...

Who taught us how to swing the club:

Swish

To throw the ball:

Who picked us up when we dropped a few:

Booo hoo

Or loyally follow the teams we love:

Bonds

Or cast the line:

It's our turn to cheer for you.

Happy Father's Day
In the days following World War II, when Communists were overrunning China, the endangered missionaries found comfort knowing that in a world dominated by the “Iron Curtain” and the “Bamboo Curtain” they could rest under the “Feather Curtain” of God.

Psalm 91:4 says, “He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge.” The Biblical patriarch, Boaz, referred to Ruth as a woman who had come under the Lord’s wings for refuge (Ruth 2:12). Later Ruth’s great-grandson, King David, perhaps recalling that story, asked the Lord in Psalm 17:8: “Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings.” And in Psalm 57, he cried, “Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; and in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by.”

A thousand years later, David’s great descendant, Jesus of Nazareth, said to the people of Jerusalem, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings…”

All these comforting word-pictures were woven together in the hymn, “Under His Wings,” written by William Orcutt Cushing, who was born into a Unitarian home in 1823. He labored for over twenty years as a Christian pastor in New York with the Disciples of Christ, but the death of his wife and severe problems with his voice forced him out of the pastorate. In near despair, he asked God to give him something to do for the kingdom. It came into his heart to begin writing hymns, and in subsequent years, he produced more than 300 of them, including “Ring the Bells of Heaven,” “When He Cometh,” “Down in the Valley,” and “Under His Wings.”

If you find yourself in near despair with the worries and fears of life, close your eyes and visualize the warm safety of the “Feather Curtain of God.”

Under His wings I am safely abiding,
Though the night deepens and tempests are wild,
Still I can trust Him; I know He will keep me,
He has redeemed me, and I am His child.
Under His Wings
Under His wings you will find refuge. Psalm 91:4

1. Under His wings I am safely abiding. Tho' the night deepens and tempests are wild, Still I can trust Him; I know He will keep me.
2. Under His wings what a refuge in sorrow! How the heart yearningly turns to His rest! Often when earth has no balm for my healing, There I find comfort, and there I am blest.
3. Under His wings O what precious enjoyment! There will I hide till life's trials are o'er; Sheltered, protected, no evil can harm me. Resting in Jesus, I'm safe evermore.

Refrain
Under His wings, under His wings, Who from His love can sever?
Under His wings my soul shall abide, Safely abide forever.

TEXT: William O. Cushing
MUSIC: Ira D. Sankey
HINGHAM
11.10.11.10. with Refrain
25 YEARS AGO

Congratulations to Karen Van Roekel on the birth of her daughter Breanne Kay.

Wally & Esther Warntjes celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Sympathy wishes were expressed to Arnie & Angie Van Es for the death of Arnie’s stepmother Jennie.

10 YEARS AGO

Harv & Max Moret celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Prayers were given to Jason Wynia, grandson of Casey & Luella Smit who had heart surgery.

5 YEARS AGO

Sympathy wishes were extended to Gerrit Korthals and family for the death of his son Arlin; and to Sheryl Rensink and family for the death of her mother Nellie Bootsma.

Well-wishes were shared with Chad & Faith Whittington and their family as they moved to Michigan.

Boyden’s 125th Celebration Days were held!!
“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.” Matthew 24:32

Thank you for your donations to the Center of Hope Mother/Baby baskets! The items donated will be a blessing to moms and babies! God bless!

Awana – June - We have some fun ideas for promotion of this awesome program!! The end of June is the Boyden Celebration Days (June 28th). We will have a table and information at the Vendor Fair about the Boyden Awana Club. We want to make sure that all the area kids know that they are welcome to come and be a part of the fun and blessing of Boyden Awana. If anyone is interested in helping set up or take down or to just sit at the table and share info about Awana, please talk with Teresa.

Awana – July – We have been invited to represent the town of Boyden in the Hull Celebration Days parade! This is scheduled to take place on Saturday, July 13th. The parade is at 10 am. We will be riding on the Boyden City Float! So we need kids and leaders to be riding on the float and maybe this year we can get enough people that we can have some walking along and giving out goodies! Please visit with Teresa if you want to ride the float or walk along. Thank you so much!!

A Father’s Day Prayer – “God, bless all the fathers in the world. Father, we ask that You guide them to be good role models and loving to their children. We also ask that You help them to be a father like You are. Give them grace and patience to handle situations in a loving way. In Jesus’ name, Amen.” “Praise the Lord. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in His commands. His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.” Psalm 112:1-3

“We are Women of God – we are strong; we are beautiful; we are valuable; we are virtuous; we are loved; we are fearfully and wonderfully made!”
Did you recognize the family in the picture from last month? It was Alan & Sheryl Warntjes with their daughters Barb, Julie & Kayla!

Consistory – 1898
Our Founding Fathers

This picture was taken in Sheldon the day that the Rev. Bouma and family were leaving Boyden. All of the consistory members and their wives had gone to Sheldon by horse and buggy to see the Boumas off on the train. While having coffee together, they decided that since there was plenty of time before the train came, it would be nice to have a picture taken. We are happy today that they did.

Standing L to R – Jake Luinstra, C. De Valois, Johannes Heemstra, Klaas Rouwenhorst
Seated L to R – Gysbert Van Stryland, Johannes Smidt, Rev. Bouma, B.H. Rensink, B.J. Grooters
## Fund Balances of April 2019

<table>
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### What is a Father?

Being of the male species does not make a man a father, for a dad is a special blend of hero, disciplinarian, a friend, someone to look up to, someone to model ... someone with a touch of the “mother” in him, someone who is big enough to say, “The fault was mine” ... someone who lives the kind of life that makes you want to say, “I, too, shall follow him!”

- Dr. Alton Kaul
HAPPINESS IS …

I don’t trust those trees, son.
Son: What? Why not?
They seem kind of shady.

Son: Daddy, can you put on my shoes?
I can try, but I don’t think they’ll fit!

What question did the snowman keep asking?
Son: Stop, Dad.
“Does anyone else smell carrots?”

All of the people who live around here aren’t allow to be buried in that cemetery?
Son: Really? Why not?
Because they’re not dead yet.

I’m reading a book on the history of glue.
I can’t seem to put it down.

Waiter: Do you want a box for your leftovers?
No. But I’ll wrestle you for them!

I THINK MY SINK IS CLOGGED

DAD.
WILL YOU PUT MY HAIR IN A BUN?

First my wife said the walls were too bare, and now they’re too bear.
I’d Rather See a Sermon than Hear One Any Day

- By Edgar A. Guest

“I’d rather see a sermon than hear one any day;
I’d rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.
The eye is a better pupil, more willing than the ear;
Fine counsel is confusing, but example is always clear;
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,
For to see a good put in action is what everybody needs.

I can soon learn how to do it if you will let me see it done;
I can watch your hand in action, but your tongue too fast may run.
And the lectures you deliver may be very wise and true,
But I’d rather get my lesson by observing what you do.
For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give,
But there is no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

When I see a deed of kindness, I am eager to be kind.
When a weaker brother stumbles, and a strong man stands behind
Just to see if he can help him, then the wish grows strong in me
To become as big and thoughtful as I know that friend to be.
And all travelers can witness that the best of guides today
Is not the one who tells them, but the one who shows the way.

One good man teaches many; men believe what they behold;
One deed of kindness noted is worth forty that are told.
Who stands with men of honor learns to hold his honor dear,
For right living speaks a language which to everyone is clear.
Than an able speaker charms me with his eloquence, I say,
I’d rather see a sermon than hear one any day.”

How can YOU be a sermon?

- Signing up to bring cookies or do kitchen duty this summer
- Donating kitchen supplies such as coffee, cups, etc.
  - Mowing the church and parsonage lawns
  - Volunteering in the nursery
- Be a technician for the audio, video or powerpoint
  - Be on the Praise Team
  - Volunteer for Awana
- Send a card, make a phone call or visit our shut-ins and those who need a blessing
  - Be a Sunday School teacher
  - JESUS SAVES! GROW! GO!

God calls all of us to serve and share the Gospel, and there is no shortage of opportunities - even right here in Boyden and at First Reformed Church!
Many Christian denominations celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, which refers to a post-resurrection event that took place 40 days after Easter. This year it occurs on May 31st.

According to Luke, Jesus led His friends to a Jerusalem suburb called Bethany. While on a small mountain, He blessed His friends and then rose into heaven while they watched.

The ascension was such a momentous occasion that after Jesus disappeared, His followers had a worship service at the spot. Then they “returned to Jerusalem with great joy” (Luke 24:52 NRSV).

Because Christ had promised to be with His followers always (Matthew 28:20), from then on they knew He would be with them as Spirit. Jesus’ body was up and away, but spiritually He was still and always would be their companion.

Fifty days after Jesus’ resurrection, on a day called Pentecost, the Christian church was born. Because Pentecost was a holiday celebrating the harvest (a bit like our Thanksgiving), the apostles and a large crowd had gathered to celebrate in Jerusalem.

Many people had assembled near Peter and the other followers of Christ when “(F)rom heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind…” (Acts 2:2 ff, NRSV). Then tongues of fire descended on everyone in the crowd.

After the wind and fire descended, all sorts of languages, known and unknown, came out of the crowd. Each person spoke “about God’s deeds of power” (verse 11). No wonder Luke wrote, “All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” (verse 12).

The whole affair was mind-boggling and life-changing. The Holy Spirit had come upon many people; they knew God was powerfully at work in their midst.

On Pentecost many years ago, some 3,000 people came to believe in Christ. That’s why today Christians remember this powerful event as the birthday of the church. Pentecost occurs on June 10th this year.
Summer Plans!

**Boyden Celebration Days**

Friday, June 28th  
3pm - 7 pm

*We will have a table with information about how kids can sign up for Awana and how anyone can volunteer. I'm sure we'll have some goodies too! Don't forget to come and check us out!!*

**Hull Summer Bash Parade**

Saturday, July 13th  
10 am

*We have been invited to represent the town of Boyden in this parade! We will ride the City of Boyden float!! So we are looking for Awana clubbers and some leaders/volunteers to ride! If we get enough people involved, then we may have some walk along the float and give out candy and goodies. Please contact Teresa at the Church office if you would like to be involved. And come to the parade to wave from the sidelines!!*

Church office - 725-2366  
Email - frboyds@premieronline.net
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