

PLEASANT RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

1997 Pleasant Ridge Road

State Road, N.C. 28676

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I Will Sing of the Goodness of God

As you all know, we lost our son Cyrus in March. He was one turn away from our road, probably a minute from our driveway when another driver crossed the center line and changed all of our lives forever. The suffering and grief that ensued since that afternoon is indescribable. I know what it means “when sorrows like sea billows roll”. Growing up on the coast, we’ve been in the ocean many times. When it’s calm, the swells gently carry you up and down. When it’s rough, you quickly find out even knee-deep water can drag you down, pull you under and before you can get your bearings, another wave you never saw coming hits you again. Grief is like that.

In the early days, those waves that drag you under are relentless. There is no time to catch your breath, no time to think, but you can survive because despite what it feels like, God is there. Our counselor explained that even when you *are* healing it won’t *feel* like it in the beginning because you cannot detect the difference in a day when a thousand waves dragged you under and a day when only 980 did. You will, however, come to a day when maybe only a hundred waves came crashing instead of a thousand. He was right – God was working.

One of the things that did and still continues to sustain me in addition to the prayers of so many was what I *already knew* to be true about God. There were weeks on end where I couldn’t think, grief will literally fog your brain but the truth the Lord blessed me to hide in my heart prior to losing Cyrus carried me through. I had to rely on what I knew, not what I felt. What I knew was that nothing is allowed without God’s sovereign permission. If you allow God to, He’ll use it to bring healing not only to you but to others as well – HE is doing that! “*This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your word has revived me.*” Psalm 119:50

The desperate cries in the psalms describe God’s goodness perfectly. “*Then I said, It is my grief that the right hand of the Most High has changed. I shall remember the deeds of the Lord; surely I will remember Your wonders of old.*” (Psalm 77:10-1) I can relate now more than ever. God changed my grief too. Jesus changed the way I would grieve in this life, but not when Cyrus was killed or even since. The Lord changed my grief all the way back on the cross! You see, the difference was made there. **Jesus made the difference.** Don’t misunderstand, I have screamed and sobbed through worship songs in my kitchen and asked questions that I know I won’t get an answer to, but *we do not grieve like those without hope.* Like the psalmist, we remember what He’s already done and that tells us who He is. Sure, I can think of Old and New Testament miracles (and I do) but I also remember the miraculous things He’s done in *my own* life. To me, the fact that I’ve stood beside my own son’s grave with Mitch and Sadie and sang *Because He Lives* with true joy in my heart is no less of a miracle than when He parted the Red Sea. I can face tomorrow. When I find fishing lures in unexpected places and it threatens to undo me but doesn’t, it’s no less miraculous than when He spoke the sun into existence. When I found a note with “love you mama” in Cyrus’ handwriting and the weight of his absence felt like it would crush me – but didn’t, it was a miracle. The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

In this last newsletter and throughout my life, I want to point people to Christ and His redemptive work on the cross every chance I get. Anything good in me is Jesus Christ. I will testify of His goodness because when I say God is good, it carries more weight than it used to for me. His goodness is real. I’ve tasted it. I’ve seen it. I know it. We are grateful for everyone who has prayed for us, loved us and shared the compassion of Jesus with us. You won’t be forgotten. We are eternally grateful to God for the promise and gift of salvation and look expectantly forward to the day when we will see clearly just how perfect His plan was.

One of my current favorite worship songs says, “All my life You have been faithful, and all my life You have been so, so good. With every breath that I am able, I will sing of the goodness of God.” -Kimberly

God's Blessings Sept. 6, 2020

Budget Needs:	\$6,796.32
Budget Receipt:	\$8,593.00
Pure Water Pure Love:	\$530.00

God's Blessings Sept. 13, 2020

Budget Needs:	\$6,796.32
Budget Receipt:	\$8,543.00
Pure Water Pure Love:	\$625.00

DID YOU KNOW THE NEWSLETTER IS NOW ON THE MYPRBC.NET SITE? SAVE PRBC POSTAGE AND PAPER AND TAKE A LOOK ONLINE. PLEASE LET DANA KNOW TO TAKE YOU OFF THE MAILING LIST.

Pure Water, Pure Love: has a three-fold mission: to supply missionaries with water filters, to provide the people they serve with wells that offer clean water and to supply missions teams with water filters for use on short-term missions trips. The High Spirits is sponsoring PWPL again this year and we plan to have the offering open the entire month of September. Members can mark their tithing envelopes or any envelope with Pure Water Pure Love or PWPL on the front.

Men's Fishing Trip: Will be Oct. 18 leaving at 1PM returning Oct. 21 at Atlantic Beach. Cost is \$155.

The Ark Meals: October

Please sign up in the vestibule.

Tri-C Donations for Sept.: CANNED FRUIT

OPT-IN FOR TITHING

ENVELOPES 2021

To reduce waste, please let me know if you want to use PRBC Tithing Envelopes in 2021.

There is a sign up sheet in the vestibule or call the office or email Deaston@myprbc.net.

THE DEADLINE FOR SIGNING UP IS

OCTOBER 5, 2020. THANK YOU!

Service Times

Sunday

- 9:45 am - Family Sunday School (youth building)
- 10:00 am - Sunday School
- 11:00 am - Worship Service

Wednesday

- 7:00 pm - Adult Bible Study
- 7:00 pm - Youth Bible Study - **Closed**
- 7:00 pm - PRKidz - **Closed**

Still want to listen from the safety of your car?

Join us at 106.3FM in our parking lot.

The Power of God's Word

"Power belongs to God" (Psalm 62:11). The great reservoir of the power that belongs to God is His own Word—the Bible. If we wish to make it ours, we must go to that book. Yet people abound in the church who are praying for power and neglecting the Bible. They long to have power to melt the cold heart and break the stubborn will, but they forget that God has said: "Is not My word like a fire?" says the Lord, 'And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:29).

If we are to obtain fullness of power in life and service, we must feed upon the Word of God. There is no other food so strengthening. If we will not take time to study the Bible, we cannot have power, any more than we can have physical power if we will not take time to eat nutritious food.

The Word of God has power to convict of sin. In Acts 2:37 we read: "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?'" If we look back and see what it was they heard that produced this deep conviction, we find it was simply the Word of God. If you read Peter's sermon, you will find it is one of the most Biblical sermons ever preached. It was Scripture from beginning to end.

It was, then, the Word of God, carried home by the Spirit of God, that pricked them to their heart. If you wish to produce conviction, you must give men the Word of God.

Not long ago a young man came into our inquiry room. I said to him: "Are you a Christian?" "No, sir." "Why not?" "I think Christianity is a first-rate thing, but I don't have much feeling about this." "But," I said, "do you not know that you are a sinner?" He said: "Yes, sir, I suppose I am; but I am not very much of a sinner. I am a pretty good sort of a fellow."

I opened my Bible and asked him to read Matthew 22:37-38. He read, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment." "What commandment is that?" I asked. He replied: "The first and great commandment." "In the light of that, what must be the first and great sin?" He replied: "It must be to neglect to keep that commandment." "Have you kept it?"

The Spirit of God took it home to his heart. It was not long before we were kneeling, and he was asking God for mercy through Christ.

Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New King James Version.

Reuben Archer Torrey served as superintendent of the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago from 1889 to 1908. This article is adapted from "How to Obtain Fullness of Power in Christian Life and Service," by R.A. Torrey. Work is in the public domain.

Member Requests: We're sorry but the church office can't act on unsigned requests. Please leave your name and number along with the request. Thanks!