



NOTES FROM THE ORCHARD

PASTORAL INTERNS AND THE CHURCH Mr. Caleb Cangelosi

This past Sunday (August 21), Carl introduced three men approved by the Session as new interns of our congregation. Wilson Van Hooser is the new youth intern/coordinator, working 20 hours a week and full time in the summers; he is from Birmingham, AL, and his wife Grace is from Belton, TX, near Waco. Jerry Ornelas and Alex Wright are new pastoral interns, working ten hours a week throughout the year; Jerry is from Savannah, Georgia, and Alex is from Lake Orion, Michigan, outside Detroit. All three men are in their second year at Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS).

You will soon be seeing them, as well as other seminary students who are not officially on the church staff, teaching Sunday School and Wednesday night youth group or adult Bible studies, assisting in worship, making hospital visits, and a variety of other ministry activities. From its inception, Pear Orchard Presbyterian Church has been actively involved in the training of ministerial candidates, both formally and informally. In order to be ordained in the Presbyterian Church in America, a candidate needs to have at least a year internship at a church, learning and participating in the various ministry duties that will make up their life's

calling. With RTS twenty minutes away, there have always been students who were vital members of our congregation, and many of those have done their internships here.

I was an intern at First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, MS, working primarily with the senior high youth from 1999-2003. That experience was formative for me, in terms of the relationships I made, the skills I learned from the ministers and staff there, and the on-the-job training I gained in teaching, preaching, and pastoring God's people. I am so thankful that I now get to be a part of another church that has a vision for training the next generation of pastors and teachers in the church, and I hope that you see the strategic nature of these opportunities as well.

How can we minister to these interns as they minister to us? Let me suggest several ways:

1. Invite them to your home for supper during the week or Sunday lunch. There is nothing like being in the homes of God's people to share a meal, especially for the single students. Get to know them, ask them about their background, their story of God's grace in their life,

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how He is calling them into ministry. Open up about your own story, that they might learn how God works in the lives of His people. The relationships you form with these students will last a lifetime, as you keep up with their ministries and families when they leave Pear Orchard. The impact you have on their lives now will impact individuals, families, churches, and the world wherever the Lord sends them to evangelize and disciple His people.

2. Encourage them as they minister, whether in their teaching/preaching, their worship leadership, or their personal ministry to the saints here. Thank them for their service, and acknowledge how thankful you are to God that they are here. When they teach and preach, be sure to attend, and listen actively and attentively.

3. Pray for them! Pray that their studies will be profitable; that the Lord would provide for them

financially; that they would be able to balance their classwork, their work at POPC, and other jobs they may have; and that they would continue to grow in their knowledge of and love for God. One of the great blessings of a pastoral internship is having an outlet for putting into practice the things you are learning at seminary, so that you don't live in the ivory tower of academia. Pray that the Lord would indeed use the time they are with us to keep their studies grounded in real life, applying the truth of God to hurting people and difficult situations in love.

It is a great privilege for us to have seminary students in our midst. May the Lord continue to send even more seminary students our way, and may He continue to use them in our lives, and us in their lives, for the growth of his church around the world!

WHY CANCER WAS GOOD FOR ME

Mr. Glynn Ingram

When you hear the words, “you have Lymphoma”, it is a mind numbing, scary time. All manner of thoughts race through your mind and the situation seems surreal. “This cannot be happening to me, can it Lord? Why me?” I knew while He did not give me cancer, He allowed it to come, either as a consequence of the sin of Adam or the schemes of the devil.

But then I remembered the words of Job; “Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?” (Job 2:10).

I began to think about how good God has been to me and focused on how all things have worked for good: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who^{la} have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

I had seen the Lord work for many years in numerous situations in my life. I decided to trust Him no matter what and draw as close to Him as I could. “Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him” (Job 13:15). This was hard to do, not because I was afraid of dying, but

because I really feared missing my Love, Ginnie, and my babies if I died. However, I remembered that I would see them again in a short period of time. I dwelt on the fact that they really belong to Jesus and He would take care of them until we meet again. Those are the truths of the Gospel in which I put my faith.

This view of the situation gave me great peace and comfort. Even in the difficult times of treatment, I experienced a mountain top time of walking and talking with Him. There was a closeness and freshness that is hard to describe. It is the best feeling in the world and I can see why Adam and Eve loved walking in the Garden with the Lord. He was ever present with me and answered prayer in very specific ways.

I decided to act completely different in response to His presence. Normally, I am very quiet and private about my life and do not accept help when offered. I am accustomed to being introduced as Ginnie's husband, Brad or Amy's dad, Maggie's father-in-law or Caroline, Parker, or John Harmon's grandfather. I take

great honor in all of them and am overjoyed to be a part of their lives. I have always been there to take care of them. Now, they were taking care of me. In response to the leading of the Lord, I decided to be open about sharing my life as the Lord led me. He showed me that my cancer was not about me, but about His Church. Through helping me and my family, they were experiencing and glorifying God through their response to our needs. I saw the beauty of the Lord at work in building his Kingdom in so many ways:

- My Lifemate and gift from God, Ginnie, was there for me all the time. She took such good care of me and my family held us up in prayer and support.
- Ginnie and I went out of our way to ask people to pray us. They did, and while they were talking to God about us, I figured they also prayed for their needs. Prayers were answered for all of us.
- We were very open to having meals brought to us. We had more food than we could eat and shared some of the food with others.
- Ginnie blogged about our experience every Sunday night in order to keep family and friends updated on our progress. Within a week or two, hundreds of people from around the world were keeping up with our status and writing us to tell us they were praying. Everyone reading the blog could see God at work.
- Our church leaders loved and nurtured us and there were many, many, phone calls offering encouragement and support. A special thanks to Pastors Carl and Caleb and Elder Tom, our Shepherd, who love us so well.

In short, the gifts and love from God's people were mighty and wonderful and the response was overwhelming! Praise His Holy name!

As I look back on my journey with cancer, there were great lessons:

- Personally, it strengthened my intimate walk and talk with Jesus, and increased my faith as all trials do. "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" (James 1:2-4). Nothing can separate me from His Love. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine.
- Much more than that, I learned how my cancer was not about me, but about God and His Glory. I think we have trials so God can use us to show himself to others and touch their hearts. I was blessed to be a part of His beautiful work on this earth and see it firsthand.

Due to me having cancer, the Lord gave me great gifts:

- My diagnosis led to Ginnie seeking help with a health issue which led to the discovery of her thyroid cancer, possibly saving her life.
- My older brother had a great awakening to Christ as a result of praying for us and worshipping under Godly preaching and teaching.
- Many nonbelievers were moved by God's working in the trial, allowing me to share the Gospel with them.
- The spiritual lives of believers were strengthened by the Lord and they encouraged me with their prayers and works in His name.

I would have cancer any day for those blessings.

Now, the cancer has passed and I am back in the valley of the mundane. I was a little depressed at first. Normal life is hard to live and not as exciting as seeing the Glory of God. It takes much faith and focus to stay close to the Lord in the boredom and mundane of

the day to day. I am convinced trials come to get us close to Him, and come often to keep us close to Him.

Bottom line, trials are good. Cancer was good for me. I heard the Lord's voice so clearly. I saw the Lord's

Church work and grow, and I saw lots of lives changed. No greater blessings than these!

TREASURES FROM THE TRINITY Mrs. Margaret Sprow

It is my great boast about Pear Orchard Presbyterian Church whenever anyone asks me why our church is so special. We sing! How often I have been encouraged from the piano bench as I hear the people of God sing His praises together. Singing has always characterized the people of God. Indeed, singing is one of God's great gifts and is often used by Him in powerful ways. Singing is integral to corporate worship and can enhance our private times of worship as well.

Very soon our congregation will begin using the *Trinity Hymnal*. The *Trinity Hymnal* is published by Great Commission Publications, the joint publishing agency of the OPC and PCA denominations and is "rooted in the rich tradition of the Reformation – with a zeal for the gospel, a high regard for doctrinal purity, and a focus on worship as defined in Scripture." (*Trinity Hymnal* preface, p.7)

One of the greatest strengths of the *Trinity Hymnal* is the number of psalms and psalm-based hymns it contains. It also includes the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Shorter Catechism. With a topical index drawn from the Westminster Confession, the hymns are broken down by topic and by scripture reference.

For the past two years, I have been studying the *Trinity Hymnal* and have sung through every one of its 742 hymns. Through my research I have been struck by the faithfulness of God to His church evidenced by the *Trinity Hymnal*. There is such beauty in the texts from so many saints from different cultures, time periods and traditions. The list of authors of hymn texts reads like a hall of fame of men and women of faith. From twelfth century Bernard of Clairvaux, to St. Frances of Assisi, to

Puritans Richard Baxter and John Bunyan, to the great hymn writers Isaac Watts and Charles Wesley, to 20th century hymn writer Margaret Clarkson, the *Trinity Hymnal* is a treasure trove of rich, singable theology. Each writer has a story, and so often the stories are filled with the sufficiency of God in suffering and trial.

I think of Martin Rinkart, a German Lutheran pastor who served in the German city of Eilenberg during the Thirty Years War from 1618-1648. The city became a refuge for those fleeing the horrors of war until the Black Death infected the city. Four ministers lived there at the time. One fled and Rinkart buried the other two. He often presided over forty to fifty funerals a day. In all 4500 people died. Surrounded by death, he nevertheless was filled with hope in the God who conquers death as he wrote these words:

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices;
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world
rejoices.

Who, from our mother's arms, hath led us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is our today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

(*Trinity Hymnal* p. 98)

And there is William Cowper, Scottish writer and poet, friend of John Newton, who wrote the much-loved hymns "God Moves in a Mysterious Way" and "There Is A Fountain filled with Blood." It is well-known that Cowper struggled with severe depression, even attempting suicide on several occasions. Yet he wrote these words:

Sometimes a light surprises the Christian while he sings;
It is the Lord, who rises with healing in his wings;
When comforts are declining, he grants the soul again
A season of clear shining to cheer it after rain.
(*Trinity Hymnal* p. 621)

Even the writer of our “The Star Spangled Banner,” the United States’ national anthem, is represented. Francis Scott Key wrote the beautiful words for “Lord, With Glowing Heart I’d Praise Thee.”

Lord, with glowing heart I’d praise thee
for the bliss thy love bestows,
For the pard’ning grace that saves me,
and the peace that from it flows.
Help, O God, my weak endeavor;
this dull soul to rapture raise:
Thou must light the flame, or never
can my love be warmed to praise.

Praise thy Savior God that drew thee
to that cross, new life to give,
Held a blood-sealed pardon to thee,
bade thee look to him and live.
Praise the grace whose threats alarmed thee,
roused thee from thy fatal ease;
Praise the grace whose promise warmed thee,
praise the grace that whispered peace.
(*Trinity Hymnal* p. 80)

When you look at a hymn in the hymnal, you’ll notice there is information on the left and right side underneath the actual music. On the left is the information about the source and author of the words. On the right side is the information about the music. Below is the information printed below my favorite hymn, “Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!”

J. Wilbur Chapman, 1910

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7. D

Each hymn tune has a name and beside it is a series of numbers or abbreviations. This list of numbers

separated by periods is the *meter* of the hymn and indicates the number of syllables in each phrase. It is this feature that makes the hymnal such a versatile, useful tool for the church. Using the Meter index in the back of the hymnal, you can see that there are thirty-one more hymns that have that same meter. If you know the tune “HYFRYDOL”, you can also successfully sing thirty-one other hymn texts to that one tune. It is this interchangeability of hymn text and tune that enables us to more fully sing our complete theology while only being familiar with around two hundred hymn tunes.

For indeed, one beauty of corporate singing in worship is that it allows us to sing our theology, etching it deeply into our hearts and minds as we read the words and sing the melody. The *Trinity Hymnal* will help us to continue to do that as we worship together. If the *Trinity Hymnal* were being compiled in 2016, no doubt it would include “In Christ Alone” and other hymns by Keith and Kristyn Getty. Our commitment to singing a blend of the great hymns of the faith as well as the best songs and hymns being written today remains. The goal for our congregational music is that it be content-rich and musically excellent, songs that come to mind in times of difficulty, sorrow and joy, songs that stand the test of time, songs that shape us more into the likeness of Christ.

Soli Deo Gloria