



## Pastor's Message—*Pastor Jonathan Michael*

### Pray for our nation and our leaders

Can you tell next year is an election year? Election day is still sixteen months away, but things are already heating up. Tune into news shows on TV or radio and you'll easily hear hours of analysis and speculation: "Who's shaking hands and kissing babies in New Hampshire and Iowa? Who's running for the Republicans? Who will run, even though they haven't officially declared it yet? What did the president imply in his latest speech? How is he campaigning for reelection already?" Add to that the questions that our governments face on the local, state and federal levels and you get some heated debates. "What about the economy? What about raising the national debt ceiling? Who's going to do something about unemployment? How will the health care laws affect me? Are they going to change Medicare?" If you've been blissfully unaware of all the political news and punditry so far, don't worry—you'll get plenty by the time the election rolls around.

Now, I don't know if you prefer Fox News or MSNBC. I don't know if you're red or blue or green or something else. Regardless, I can remind you of something very basic that God says to us about those in government, words that apply to us regardless of what political stripe we may be: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

The instruction is simple: Pray for everyone. In particular, pray for those in government.

It's easier to criticize those in government. And don't get me wrong—criticism is okay. We have in our nation the privilege of speaking freely about our government. We even have the ability to communicate with our elected representatives. We have the right to disagree with them and to tell them so. But in addition to criticizing, we should also pray.



Pray that leaders, no matter what their political philosophy, do their jobs with honesty and integrity. To be entrusted with great influence and power—this would present temptations to any of us. Not only do our leaders receive many legitimate requests for help, but I imagine they also are pressured by unscrupulous people who want special favors outside the law. And the power given to our leaders at times has led some to believe that they were above the law, that they could get away with things others could not. (We could cite examples from both sides of the aisle, couldn't we?) Pray for our leaders' integrity, so that they may stand up against temptation.

Pray that our leaders may exercise wisdom for the common good. Elected leaders are tasked with representing innumerable individuals and groups. It's difficult for me to imagine trying to balance the needs of so many. Pray that God would give them compassion, a genuine desire to serve those they represent, and wisdom to balance the needs of many.

Don't misunderstand. I'm not advocating saying, "Poor politicians! They've got it so tough!" in a sarcastic way. Nor am I trying to squelch criticism that needs to be spoken. Rather, I want us to remember what God encourages us to do: pray for all those in authority—even those we don't like or agree with... maybe *especially* those we don't like or agree with! (And if we are remembering to pray for our leaders, perhaps we'll think twice before ridiculing them.)

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When God guides and blesses our leaders in government, we benefit. As Paul says, we can then lead peaceful lives, letting our lights shine and honoring our God. What's more, a nation at peace is one where the good news of Jesus can be freely shared. Through that message, God can lead more and more people to the knowledge of his truth—the truth of human sin and divine grace, of grace that took action to ransom those held hostage by sin. Praying for our leaders is one way of praying that God's kingdom comes and his will is done, because his kingdom, his reign of grace in human hearts, is something he wants all people to experience.

On this Independence Day weekend and every day, pray for our nation and those who represent and lead us in government.

### **Fellowship—Darrell Koplín, Chairman**

There have been some Ministry Teams created for many of our annual events, but as the newly elected Fellowship Chairman, I would like to ask if there are members who would like to be on the Fellowship Committee to assist me in overseeing a few of these activities and support other events that may arise. This can be a short-term commitment if desired. Please speak with me at church or call me at 801-455-1351.

### **Trustees—Kent Carlson, Chairman**

**Trustee  
Work Morning**  
**Saturday, July 16**  
**9AM-12PM**



***Help is always appreciated!***

*Stop by and we'll show you the ropes ...  
the hammers ... the screwdrivers ...  
the paintbrushes ...*

### **President—Eric Myers**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

You get me for another two years. I am excited to see what the Lord has in store for us. Last month, I gave some advice to the next chairman. Now, with your help, and Lord willing, we get to implement them. It is good to see that we have some new faces in leadership and with all the volunteering I see on the ministry teams, there will be a healthy diversification of people involved in the growth of PoP.

For those that were not able to attend the recent semi-annual Voters' Meeting, I will give you a quick synopsis. We approved a budget for nine areas of our ministry. It boils down to only a \$700 increase over last year. The key to such a slight increase was mostly due to the sacrifices that are staff is going to make over the next twelve months. In light of the tightening of the belt in the school portion of our ministry, leadership and voters felt the entire ministry should stand together and all wages were frozen for 2011-12. The school will go forward with what the voters approved in May – a tiered back budget that will grow as additional tuition comes into place. Finally, we elected leaders into several open positions with only the stewardship committee remaining without a chairman.

As I have a chance to re-focus on the important issues for PoP coming up, I will look for some help from all of you. Before school starts, we intend to have a Leadership orientation to inform all leaders of their duties and get feedback on how we can accomplish those duties. We will also be putting together some goals for leadership to focus on over the coming months. These will be approved by our membership (survey is probably best way to do this). And finally, as was well suggested, we will put together a mid- to long range planning committee and plan that will help all of us focus the little things on the big things.

It is humbling that the voters chose me for the next couple years. I will lean on all of you and the Lord's assistance as we work to expand His kingdom. Let's get after it.

Eric Myers – Chairman  
801-821-0355  
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### Your Room Is Ready

When our children were young, we used to regularly visit family in the Midwest during summer vacation. Being young and adventuresome (immature), I never saw the need for planning where we would stay while on the road. One year I insisted we drive a little longer that day, and when I finally decided to pull off the Interstate, there were no rooms available anywhere along I-80.

That night we continued along the highway and I was getting more and more tired. I worried that I would fall asleep and crash, killing myself, my wife, and our children. I remember praying to God for an open hotel room so we could get a good night's rest and continue safely in the morning. After several more hours, we finally arrived at the Tomahawk Truck Stop in Ogallala, Nebraska. The woman working the night shift took pity on us and gave us a room reserved for truckers. I thanked her and I thanked God for her compassion on this foolish traveler.

Last month I came across a devotion from my Meditations booklet, that reminded me of our journey, as well as my walk with Christ. I hope it resonates with you the way that it did with me. It's titled **"In The Father's House"**

*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.*  
(John 14:1, 2)

*Vacation was over; it was time to head home. The drive would take a couple of days and require an overnight stay in a hotel. The travelers called ahead to reserve a room for the night but arrived late to find the hotel doors locked and the lobby dark. Rapping at the door awakened the manager who knew nothing about the reservation. Not that it would have mattered; all the rooms were full. What a crushing blow to weary travelers! Where should they go? Where should they stay?*

*Now, if your hotel room isn't ready, it isn't the end of the world. You can always sleep in the car or find another hotel. But what if it was the end of the world or the end of your life? What if after living your life by faith in Christ, with the hope set on spending eternity in the Father's house in heaven, there was no place of eternal peace and endless rest? What if there was no room for you in the Father's house? Ever worry about that?*

*Don't. Jesus assures you that even now your room in the Father's house is ready. He said, "I am going to prepare a place for you, in my Father's house." Jesus didn't add the word **there** as our translation does. He simply said, "I am going," in the present tense. Jesus was going away even as he spoke these words on*

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Saturday, July 30

3 & 4 year olds ~ 9AM-11:30AM  
Grades K-6th ~ 9AM-2:30PM

Bible Stories  
Crafts  
Snacks  
Games  
Lunch  
Workshops

Invite your friends! There is no cost!

Register on-line at:  
[thediscoverycamp.com](http://thediscoverycamp.com)



Here are a few areas where we need  
Discovery Camp volunteers!

- Provide snack supplies or paper products
- Assist 3 & 4 year olds (morning only)
- Help register children
- Be a craft or game helper
- Help decorate
- Prepare/serve snacks or lunch
- Give a monetary donation to help with expenses.
- Publicity: hang posters, take flyers
- Set-up or clean-up.

For questions, contact Jeff or Sarah Sell at  
801-590-3181 or [jrsell@hotmail.com](mailto:jrsell@hotmail.com)

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on Maundy Thursday. "The "going away" Jesus had in mind included his betrayal, arrest, trial, and crucifixion, which culminated with his triumphant cry: "It is finished" (John 19:30). Jesus' resurrection and ascension proved he was right. It was finished; your room in the Father's house is ready.

What a miracle of God's grace! Once there was no room for us in the Father's house. We forfeited our place in his glorious presence by our sins. Yet God was determined that our eternal home shouldn't be in hell. So he sent his Son to fulfill the demands of the law for us by living perfectly. He sent his Son to free us from the curse of the law by dying for us on the cross. Don't let your heart be troubled – your room in heaven is ready.

As an Elder in our church, we often are asked to make calls on members who have stopped regularly attending worship and communion. Some think we call because the church needs money. The church does need money, but that's not why we call. We call on all members to remind them that their room in heaven has been paid for and is ready for their arrival. Hope to see you soon!



taken from Meditations, dated May 22, 2011

## Principal's Update—Jeff Sell



**Teacher License**-Miss Katie Spaude has been working on completing her application for a Utah state teacher's license and was recently granted an official license to teach in Utah. We congratulate her and ask God to continue to guide her teaching to our lambs.

**Taylorville Dayzz**-It is hard to calculate how many people we had stop by the booth on June 24+25. The only way to gauge it is to look at the number of foam rockets that were given away (550) as well as cups with our logo on them (720). The event is used to get out in the community and let people know who we are and where we are located. We also take the opportunity to collect names of adults who have interest in our church and school ministry. We were very blessed this year and have many follow-up opportunities. Thank you to everyone who made time to help prepare the rocket parts in advance and those who came out to the park and gave of their time and smiles!



**Discovery Camp/VBS**-This Sunday will be the first time you will see something about signing up for our summer, one-day VBS to be held on Saturday, July 30. It will be similar in form to last year in that the older children will do a workshop and the younger children will have a "typical" VBS experience. However, the addition is a dedicated Bible lesson for the older children in the morning. If you are able to assist by using your talents to support this outreach effort to our community, please speak with me or my wife. **If you are unable to commit to helping, please commit to praying that the Lord would bless our efforts and use this event to further His kingdom and lead people to the saving message.** Check out the wall by the church office to see our progress as we head into the end of July.



**School Finances**-If you were at the voters' meeting on Sunday, June 26, you are aware that the anticipated cuts for the school staff proceeded according to the matrix that was proposed at the open forum. While we may be tempted to throw our hands in the air and question the outcome, we need to be reminding ourselves that the same God who made the universe has promised to bless our efforts as we remain faithful in service to Him. If He really wanted to, He could easily drop a \$1,000,000 onto the floor of the gym and seemingly solve all of our struggles. We are not promised in the Bible that our school will be given 52 years to spread the Gospel to the children of Salt Lake. However, we do have the only WELS school in the entire state of Utah. So, we have a large responsibility to use it to reach out as much as possible and work while we are given the time. Although we are currently falling short on funds, we look toward the future and pray that the Lord would continue to open the floodgates and move more families to make use of our school so we can share the sweetness of being 100% forgiven!

