

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

September 2021

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*Therefore, do not worry
about tomorrow,
for tomorrow will worry
about itself.*

*Each day has enough
trouble of it's own.*

Matthew 6:34



Welcome Home.



A Message from M.R. Hamilton

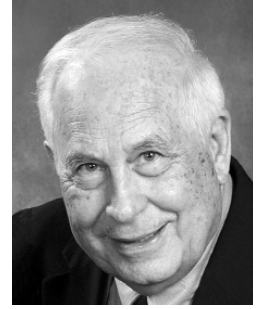
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SENIOR PASTOR

Just the mention of the month of September makes me smile and feel giddy like a kid right before Christmas because of all the things I anticipate with it's arrival. The arrival of September means the end of the dog days of August and that means cooler weather is coming soon. It may still be 100 degrees outside but no worries this is September and it is going to lose it's hold on us soon. I like to think of February and August like the states of Kansas and Nebraska they are what you have to get through to get where you are going. Trust me your arrival in Eastern Colorado is cause for celebration even though the landscape is nothing close to the farm lands of Kansas. Honestly Eastern Colorado is a very bleak place but who cares because you know it is all about to change because you are in Colorado. Anticipation can change your outlook even if your present situation hasn't changed or has even gotten worse. That expectation of a better tomorrow is all we need to lift up our spirits and carry us through to see the beauty and wonder that lies just ahead of us.

At this point I feel certain you have already figured out where I'm going with this message on September. God wants us all to look back and see that He has always been there for us, look around and realize we are not alone, now look up and see the promises of God coming in your future and realize we are living in a very spiritual September. I know the plans God has for you and they are plans to bless and refresh you not harm and hurt you, plans to give you a hope and a future. That hope comes from the reality that God has a great plan ahead for us. His plans are not our plans, they are so much better than anything we

could ever dream or imagine. The enemy is hard at work to steal and kill that dream by causing you to doubt that God can deliver on His promises. So be on your guard and don't listen to him as he has been a liar from the beginning. I believe God is allowing him to make our futures look and feel so bad that when God delivers we will know it wasn't a coincidence. I recently read a note that said "a coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous" but I don't think God wants us to take what He does for us every single day for granted. I'm also sure He doesn't want us to credit what He has done for us as a coincidence. Your existence in this world is no coincidence! You were created by God for a reason and we all just have to get across our Kansas, or through our August to see it. So look back at all the ways God has been there for you in the past. Then look up to catch a glimpse of what God has promised in your future so you don't get distracted by what you have to go through to get there. The best really is yet to come!

A Message from Dr. Jerry Horner



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

Our country is in trouble, and we are witnessing anarchy, crime, violence, hatred, distrust, national discord, corruption, perversion, and other forms of ungodliness on a wholesale scale unknown during our lifetime. Those of us who are really concerned are praying, but while we are praying, we need to realize that the degenerating conditions we see are only symptoms, outward manifestations of evil hearts. A country is made up of individuals, and a country cannot be changed until individuals are changed; and individuals cannot be changed until their lives are changed; and their lives cannot be changed until their hearts are changed; and their hearts cannot be changed until Jesus is enthroned in them. Proverbs 4:23 states the problem quite clearly: "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it" (NIV).

Most people think of the heart in one of two ways. First, they think of a physical organ in the body that weighs less than one pound, can fit in the palm of your hand, yet it pumps 2,000 gallons of blood through 6,000 miles of arteries, veins and capillaries every single day. Your heart beats 100,000 times a day. As important and amazing as that organ is, that is not what God is talking about in this passage. Others think of the heart in terms of romance, as evidenced by the symbol of the heart in connection with love. But when the Bible speaks about the heart, as it does quite often, the meaning involves three distinct things.

First, the heart involves the MIND. Proverbs 23:7 tells us that as you think in your heart, so are you. In Matthew 9:4 Jesus confronted the scribes, and "knowing their thoughts, said, 'Why do you think evil in your hearts?'" In Mark 7:20-23 Jesus listed all kinds of defiling things that come out of the heart of a person. The first thing that He mentioned are "evil thoughts." So when the Bible talks about the heart, it often and almost always is speaking of the mind—your thinking processes. Therefore, to guard your heart is to guard your mind.

The heart involves the EMOTIONS. Jesus declared, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart" (Matt. 22:37; Mark 19:30). The Bible speaks of emotions of the heart ranging from heaviness and sorrow to love and affection. To guard our heart, then, is to guard our thinking and our feelings. Someone will say, "I can't help how I feel!" God says that you can and you better. The Bible warns against being controlled by our emotions. Emotions can be very dangerous. Think of people who have ruined their lives through misplaced emotion. We have all seen people who "love" money, sex, power, or who love the wrong person and it ruins their lives. What about anger? That's an emotion that can kill. Depression, loneliness, pride, etc., are all emotions. Don't trust your emotions, because they can lead you over a cliff and into a pit of destruction. Guard your heart, your emotions.

The heart involves the WILL, that is, the decision making process in your life. When Peter confronted Ananias with

his deceit, he asked him, "Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?" (Acts 5:3). Satan "filled" the heart of Ananias and affected his will. Put these three factors together. The intellect or mind, the emotions or feelings, and the will or decision making process are all involved in the word "heart." This means that in guarding the heart we are guarding our thinking, feeling, and decisions.

What are we guarding against? We are in a battle with SATAN, who is after our minds, our emotions, and our wills. You can read about this battle in Ephesians 6:10-18. Anybody who cannot recognize the satanic influence behind all the craziness going on in our country is a few bricks short of a full load. We are in a battle with the WORLD, that is, a godless value system under the sway of the evil one who uses it to convey his message and entice people away from God. You can read about this battle in passages like Romans 12:2. The message of the world is subtle, but very strong. You will see it in movies, television, music, books and magazines, the attraction of material things, and culture in general. However, while Satan is at work in this world, using the images, culture, words, and scenes of life to invade our hearts, the biggest problem is the battle each of us has within OURSELVES. Jeremiah 17:9-10 tells us that only God can know the heart. Our hearts are exceedingly deceitful, so much so that we cannot really know ourselves. We have to bring our hearts to God and allow Him to examine us. Psalm 129:23-24 reveals that David knew that he needed God to examine his heart, and so do we. We don't know the evil we are capable of doing. Only God knows our heart completely. When we submit our hearts to Him, we open the door to being the best we can be. When we leave the door open to anyone and everyone, we have the potential of being the worst that we can be.

How can you guard your heart? First, CONFESS YOUR NEED (Psalm 51:10). We can never be right with God if we don't strip ourselves of pride and tell God that we need our hearts to be clean. What good would it do if your arteries were clogged with plaque but you are unwilling to get help? Next, CLEANSE YOUR HEART. James 4:7-10 teaches us that we can purify our hearts by submitting to God, releasing pride and letting go of self, and resisting Satan. You can cleanse your outside body with soap, but cleansing the heart is an inside job, and only God through the blood of Jesus can do it. Finally, COMMIT YOUR LIFE. God wants us fully committed to Him. It does no good to lock your doors if the thief is hiding in the closet, and it does no good to make a commitment to the Lord while you are still entertaining sin in your life. Ephesians 3:17 says that Christ dwells in our hearts through faith. The word "dwell" means to settle down, to be at home. When Jesus fully occupies our hearts, we can let Him answer the door when the devil comes calling. "Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above."



A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

Content was not available at time of printing.



This is the
day the

Lord has
made.

We will

rejoice
and be glad in it.

PSALM 118:24 NLT

A Message from David Stephens

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CHILDREN'S MINISTER



We had a successful back to school month. Now we are excited to get AWANA started up for our Fall semester. We will have our Family Fun Night September 1 from 6 – 7:30pm. We will have Tin Roof Treats serving up snow cones, games, and inflatables on our front yard. Awana registration table will be set up if your clubber is not already enrolled on our digital link. I will also have our AWANA Operation Christmas Child table set up. We have some exciting giving opportunities that will be available starting September. This years kids packing goal is 1000 boxes. Last year at our packing party we packed over 500 boxes in 1 and 1/2 hours. This year we are planning for 1000. LET'S DO THIS TOGETHER!

We are back to school and our schedules are full of activities. Fall sports, Band, Drama's and the rest are all in full motion. This is all good stuff and an exciting time of the year. My challenge to myself and you is very simple. During this busy time, we must remember to make room for Jesus. We know this, but really ask yourself, do you do this well? We think it because it's been ingrained in our make-up, but do we really know it? Do we ache with longing when we've gone without our time with Jesus? We must drop our religion and traditions if they are blinding us from being with Jesus. When we do this we can tap into his power that helps us to do our work with excellence and we see him at work thru us wherever we are. I pray that we will be able to see the people that are right in front of us that need encouragement. We do have a way that is better. We are also blessed with a place where we can come together in fellowship. As we surrender, we are able to do exceedingly more than we ever think possible.

Calendar:

AWANA Family Fun Night Sept 1 6-7:30PM

AWANA 1st club meeting 9/8

Labor Day Sept 6 (No GriefShare)

GriefShare 6-8PM (9/13; 9/20; 9/27)

I'm attending the Child Discipleship Forum 9/16 -9/17 (Nashville, TN)

Be Strong Men's Conference 9/24-9/26

We are in need of Kids Bible Fellowship helpers. I'm starting a team of adults that float around to the elementary teaching rooms to assist with various components of the time. Our children's Sunday morning teachers need help, and we have a wealth of very capable people throughout our entire church that can help. I'm asking for a commitment to serve 1 Sunday a month during 10AM in the children's ministry.

Thank you all for your support. We are stronger together.

David

Opportunities for Women @ Lakewood

September 1st - **Virginia Kennedy Women's Mission Union**

10:30am - Rex Carter Classroom

September 9th - **American Red Cross Blood Drive**

1:30-6:30pm in the Family Activities Center

September 11th - **Going Beyond with Priscilla Shirer**

8am - 4pm

September 23rd - **Jane Ellen Gaines Baptist Women**

6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

September 25th - **Vintage Market & Lunch** at the Farm House Restaurant in Ellerslie

Details to come

NEED YOUR VACCINE???

Preferred Medical Group will be @ Lakewood

Wednesday, September 8th

4:00-6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

They will be offering the **Moderna & Pfizer** vaccines to anyone 12 years & up

There is no charge

There will be **no booster shot** available at this time

Call the church office if you are interested

334-298-6433

Lakewood Happenings

September 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			10:30am Virginia Kennedy Women's Missions Trip 6:00pm AWANA 1	2	3	4
5	Labor Day Office Closed 6	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 7	6:00pm AWANA 7:00pm Deacons meeting 8	1:30pm Red Cross Blood Drive in Family Activity Center 9	5:30pm Senior Adult Game Night 10	11
12	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare 13	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 14	6:00pm AWANA 7:00pm Finance Team meeting 15	16	17	11:00am Singles/ Young Adults Feed the Homeless 18
19	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare 20	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 21	6:00pm AWANA 22	6:30pm Jane Ellen Gaines Baptist Women 23	24	25
26	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm GriefShare 27	6:15pm Alleluia Choir 28	6:00pm AWANA 29	30		

July Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
7/4	\$17,101.65	\$310.00	\$1,496.00	\$399.00	\$19,306.65
7/11	\$28,905.62	\$100.00	\$2,560.00	\$1,208.00	\$32,773.62
7/18	\$15,389.01	\$100.00	\$2,790.43	\$1,568.50	\$19,847.94
7/25	\$17,122.50	~	\$1,083.00	\$185.00	\$18,390.50

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

- 9:00am Contemporary Worship
- 10:00am Bible Fellowship
- 11:00am Blended Worship

WEDNESDAY

- 6:00pm Prayer Meeting
- 6:00pm AWANA/FLYTE
- 6:30pm Youth Worship

In Memory of:

Judy Carter for Amen Choir –
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Robinson
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Davis
Mr. & Mrs. JD Whitehead
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Barbaree
Mr. & Mrs. Roy McHargue
For General Fund – Mrs. Fran Loftin
For Music Ministry – Mr. & Mrs. Fred Van Horn
For Laughing Child-Mrs. Pat Holland

Clara Grimes for Amen Choir –

Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Robinson
Ms. Glenda Medley
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Roy McHargue
For Circles of Influence –
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Van Horn
Mrs. Margie Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. JD Whitehead
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Murry
Mrs. Benda Slappey
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Strength
For Food bank – Mrs. Gail Brantley
For Laughing Child – Mrs. Pat Holland
For Annie Armstrong - Stephen & Nancy Stainsby

Reba Goolsby for Annie Armstrong
Stephen & Nancy Stainsby

Reba Goolsby for General Fund – Mrs. Fran Loftin
Reba Goolsby

Joel Kimbro for Circles of Influence
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Strength

Stancel Hughes for food bank
Ms. Patricia Thomas

Dr. Tom Helton for Amen Choir
Ms. Glenda Medley

Ritch & Rhett Pritchett for Laughing Child
Mrs. Pat Holland & Mrs. Carole Ray

In Honor of:

Robert Wilson for Orchestra
from Stephen & Nancy Stainsby

Charles & Carol Clegg 50th Wedding Anniversary
for General Fund – Ms. Glenda Medley

Shelrea Funderburk for Children’s Ministry
Ray McCraine and JD Whitehead SS Class

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

Jackson Cooper
Brice Watson
Georgia Parkman
Eli Stephens
Cooper Floyd
Colbie Floyd
Abby Loreman
Mariah O’Brien
Jacob Laboy
Colin Fontin

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