



Time to Make the Donuts

Lessons from Left Field

By Chuck Bittrick

gk or GK?

I was on my way to church one Sunday morning driving 70 miles per hour on I-35W. It's amazing how time can slow down when you are going so fast. This stretch of I-35W is four lanes and I was in the left center lane. In the right center lane was a small grey kitten standing weakly; it seemed to wobble a little as I passed by. I saw something under the kitten that I at first I thought was feces. I later realized that it was some of its intestines as it must have been hit at least once by a passing vehicle.

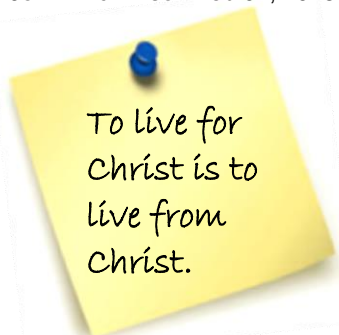
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Please join us in welcoming our newest arrivals:

- Jimmy Suttles Dec 5, 2017
- Beecher Cameron Dec 11, 2017
- Bob Cain Dec 27 2017
- David Powers Jan 5, 2018
- Shawn Fitzpatrick Feb 16, 2018
- James Landry Feb 23, 2018
- Dan Knoll Feb 26, 2018

Pray that our recent graduates will walk in their God-given talents for His glory:

John Eric Wilson Feb 01, 2018



Remember the old Dunkin Donuts commercial? You know, where the Dunkin Donuts' employee repeatedly leaves his home because it is "time to make the donuts" and returns home saying, "I made the donuts." This continues through rain and snow and windstorms until he meets himself coming in the door as he is leaving.

That's how it has been lately for Pastor Jon (PJ) and Chuck. (Let's not forget our faithful real estate agent and friend, Levi.) In spite of already having full schedules, they have been finding themselves coming and going looking for property for New Name's much needed expansion. But New Name needs more than expansion. This ministry needs to walk in the vision given it by the Lord.

He recently told PJ that he wasn't thinking big enough. We've already captured on a

vision for Psalm 40 Ranch, a campus in the country to include not only our transformational program but also our Last Resort Academy, and a background friendly RV community. Now this seems pretty big to us. So, what does God have up His sleeve?

All we know so far is that the Lord has been leading us by the "no's". Every time we find a property that we are serious about, even those that have been on the market for months, suddenly they come under contract. New Name has been such a blessing to a number of listing agents in the area.

What is clear, is that we need to do what know to do while trusting that He will continue to guide. His blessings are most certainly "Yes" and "Amen."

From the Father's Heart

By Pastor Jon Cordeiro

Watch, Pray and Celebrate!

What's the difference between anxiety and excitement when you're waiting for a life changing decision? The same answer to any question that aligns itself with the facts versus the Truth, fear versus Love: Jesus. As I'm waiting for word on the



purchase of the Psalm 40 Ranch and RV community, a vision I've been pursuing for nearly 2 years, I vacillate between fear of loss (of something I don't even possess yet) and hope of a future (something I have been praising God for regularly). Before judging me for not standing on God's Word and thinking I'm less than the leader you want to come up under at New Name Ministries, I want to share a conversation I had with James at Travis House yesterday. James just got home last Friday. He and 82 other men were

being released from the Walls Unit that Friday, usually released in different groups throughout the day. As the guards called off names, James and one other man were not called. Apparently, their paperwork was missing. James' stomach started to twist and turn. The other man began to get twisted. James



in his Christ-ness went to encourage the other man only to find him too volatile to minister to, in wisdom he walked away. Then they were both called into an office and told to sit while the problem was being resolved. The other man was still escalating and James suggested they pray. With a look of spiritual awakening the other man readily agreed. As they finished praying the paperwork arrived for

Lessons from Left Field

I could imagine just how fearful that kitten must have been looking at all of the vehicles bearing down on it. It must have been wondering how it got into that situation. I also wondered how it ended up in the middle of the freeway. Did someone take it away from its mother? Did it wonder off on its own? How did it get so far from safety? Some of us aren't much different from this little grey kitten. We were designed to live safely within the love of our Heavenly Father. Because we trust in Him and love Him, we are willing to obey Him because we trust that what He tells us is for our own good.

So, what happens? Life happens. Life is not fair; life can be harsh. Life got that way from choices made in the garden, choices that were encouraged by the enemy. God made the right choice clear. Adam and Eve decided that they couldn't trust God and would rather trust the enemy. How did that work out for them? Before they chose to sin, there was no death. Life was paradise. After sin, death prevailed along with everything sin brings on its way to bearing its final fruit: death.

As children, we are wounded by the ugliness sin brought into this world: neglect, abuse, bullying, rape, theft, slander, shame, and destruction of identity. Fearful of being hurt again, and to some degree blaming or mistrusting God, we move away from safety and into the middle of traffic where life comes at us at a pace we cannot handle. It bears down on us and knocks us around. We have no idea what comfort the Father's love is.

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The Father's Heart continued

their release. The answer was already on its way. God doesn't say maybe. He does say "yes" and sometimes "no" or "not yet." Watching and praying is what we are told to do. Watch what God is doing and pray it through with Him. And, while you're waiting, praise Him for his faithfulness and anything else you can honestly give Him praise for. He inhabits our praises! Praise on!

We are called to keep our focus on Him from grace to Grace. While walking from the door of what's not from God to the door of that which is, it can be Hell in the hallway. Even though we don't walk alone, we can find ourselves being



shaken to our core and questioning ourselves and God. Knowing in our **Lessons from Left Field continued**

Instead, we stand there shaking in confusion and fear with our intestines spilled out on the ground. If we only knew how to escape this dangerous freeway we've ended up on. It is really very simple yet, because we are so self-reliant, we believe it is too difficult.

Jesus made THE WAY to return to the Father. The damage done to creation was so great, it took the shed blood of Jesus Christ to buy us and bring us back to the Father. This buyback plan has no mortgage attached to it, no payments to make. It is finished. So, do you want to be a little grey kitten or a God's Kid?



The Father's Heart continued

head isn't always believing with all our heart. We always act out of what we believe, not what we know. Years ago, I learned that delayed isn't denied; but even so, this doesn't



remove the desire for overcoming and celebrating. Though we serve a timeless God, He has created time as a tool for the working out of our salvation and the sanctification of our souls' redemption. This is worth celebrating daily! Remember brothers, we are told to seek first the Kingdom of God and then all these things will be added to us.

I hope you will join me in celebrating our Fathers goodness daily and resting in His faithfulness. Oh, and don't forget to lift up praise for the Psalm 40 Ranch and RV Community while you're at it and waiting!

The Reason Why

By Chris Ross

The Pleasure Seeker

Even while happy, there seems to be a slow but sure way we can fall from grace. A path so many follow, only to eventually commit involuntary suicide. I was caught unaware by the hell bound talons of pleasure seeking, and suffered greatly for it. The echoes of my self-imposed torture still resound in the depths of my soul. Never will I forget the horror of what transpired in my heart and soul, I never want to swim that swamp of selfishness again. This is precisely why the fight for peace should not only be real but must be fought with the utmost determination daily.

The memories of being locked inside the cage of pleasure seeking are burned into my mind. The irony is, I was slowly poisoning my spirit with the lies of self-sufficient salvation and causing many to suffer with me. I honestly thought I was doing the work of my Master. As to why my Master would ever promise me

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An Insider's View

By Beecher Cameron

Coming Home

If you are going through the process of leaving TDCJ on parole you have probably heard stories and opinions about New Name Ministries: it's faith based; it's strict; it's demanding; they want to "get in your business". All of that is true. If you have made application to NNM expecting something different than what was stated in the ministry guidelines some reconsideration might be in order. New Name is very accurate in its representation of itself.

Perhaps you have been exposed to a faith-based living situation; New Name will take that further. The ministry requires full participation in its curriculum which means writing, discussion that is frequently uncomfortable, and honest reflection on the life and events that led to your crime – not your "charge," your crime. You will be required to take responsibility for your actions, past, present and future and will often hear the phrase "held accountable." This is not designed to embarrass, judge, or punish but to build responsibility and is done in an atmosphere of love and respect from your brothers and God's everlasting willingness to forgive.

So why, after the confinement of prison, should you place yourself into such a structured environment? ... because it has benefits; the leadership and guests of the ministry are there to help you succeed, and none of us (no matter what we may think) are ready to be dropped cold into the free world. When I got my notice of parole there was no celebration. My immediate thought was, "I'm not ready for this." New Name is not only a place of re-invention; it's a place of preparation. Sixty-five days into parole and I am employed, have established bank accounts, and a driver's license (yeah, that one was a big deal to me).



Most importantly, I am finding that a growing ability to look at myself honestly, while at times painful, is liberating and draws me closer to God.

You will be busy from day one. New Name will provide transportation to those initial visits during the first days of your parole. Your mentor and all your brothers will make sure that you do not forget something critical.

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An Insider's View continued

You will receive the first parts of your curriculum which is designed to start (or continue) your conversations with God and allow Him to be an intimate partner in your life.

Should you come in funded; that's great. If not, you will be placed on "fee catch up" where you make payments to the ministry for back program fees once you are employed. Membership in New Name Ministries is an enormous help to securing a job as the ministry enjoys a solid reputation with several Ft. Worth employers. There are chores to be done; 4 to 5 guys sharing a house requires that everyone do their part, and you will get a stewardship, a specific area of responsibility for house operations. All of this is under



the guidance of an on-site manager. It can be intense, and you will learn the importance of budgeting your time, managing it, and setting priorities. Prepare to be challenged and to feel frustrated at times. I did and sometimes still do, but these are chances for growth. I know that's one of those vague phrases that people will use without actually defining it. It's about accepting and acting on your responsibilities, and those of us who have been in prison have fallen short in that area. There is a quiet satisfaction that comes from knowing you have met your obligations to others, that you are known as a responsible person, and that you are achieving the greatness God placed within you. This is not a lecture; it is statement from one who failed the responsibilities of his personal life and refused to realize that we are not the judge of our personal responsibility; it is reflected in those we encounter and those we love. Too often I viewed others as obstacles to be overcome, tools to be used, or objects to be abused for my pleasure. If this sounds at all familiar, then New Name is the place for you.

For me, there were days when the demands of the ministry and work were burdensome, and the thought would flash into my mind, "Prison was easier than this." Of course that is total nonsense and the product of a selective (and short) memory. Prison demands were simple - endure. The demands of New Name are more complex - participate, serve, grow. Come here prepared to do the full year of the program you will sign for, and while there will be the occasional rough spots, each is an opportunity for self-examination and

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An Insider's View continued

change. There is no purpose in leaving prison unless we are willing to change the behaviors and attitudes that put us there. Like a successful life, succeeding at New Name requires faith and discipline, but this is not a grim emotionless place. It's a place of laughter and prayer that provides an answer to the question of "After prison, who am I," the answer - we are still men who have something to offer to our friends, family, and country. We are still children of God and the beneficiaries of the blood of Jesus.

I am at a point that seemed impossible just a short time ago, finding more reasons to smile and laugh and beginning to understand what it means to bring God's kingdom to earth. I thought I had life figured out, living modestly but comfortably, but a lifelong

just when you think you've
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upside in the head

pattern of selfishness had ruined a marriage, more than one promising relationship, and was a major factor in my crime. One cannot behave selfishly and succeed at New Name. Only two months have gone by since coming home. My experience is incomplete, but I already know it will grow in importance, because at age 63 and having been through prison, I felt that all significant events in my life were at an end. Something is happening here that I cannot fully describe in writing, but I know there is still a lot of living before me, and this place is the beginning. Perhaps I am learning to recognize, and depend on, the voice of God.

The Reason Why continued

peace yet give me pain was a mystery to me. This should've been an obvious clue as to which master I was actually serving. Little by little, I came to passionately hate the worth of my worship. Lie upon lie, I accounted to Him. There was not one thing about God I loved anymore, all was lost, all was distasteful.

In a battle for my very life, not with God, but with myself, I thought my never-ending search for



happiness would be obtained through rigid obedience to a set of rules and activities. All I was doing was building a giant cell of unbearable and impossible responsibility one brick at a time. The more I did for God, the more I expected in return. I didn't understand why I was so unhappy. All my living I did for God, yet
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The Reason Why continued

He never gave me an ounce. I assumed that my efforts were either not good enough or not worthy of God's



time and reward. The only course of action that gave me temporary relief was to give up trying. So, I took the knife of selfish emotion and sliced deep into my emptiness. Ahhh, the peace of finally letting go of His demands for perfection. Without the weight of my oppressor upon me I found relief that seemingly rivaled the ecstasy of the highest clouds in Heaven.

That's when the impossible happened. God gave me a glimpse of what it would be like to be a grain of sand on the shore of His ocean. The beauty of what I saw knocked me to my knees. In a surge of sudden understanding, what I knew of "Holy" changed forever. Now, my life is a continual pursuit of His peace and presence, not pleasure through rule keeping and control. When the waves of life come, and they always do, I now seek refuge through pursuit of my King and His peace through a personal relationship. Through this pursuit, I find more than a sandy shore, I find His eternal hope in a Kingdom worth dying to myself for. And, a King worth living for on the shores of eternity, where true pleasure lasts forever.



For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn away from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it.

As always...

We appreciate your continued prayers and financial encouragement for this ministry. We are currently searching for property (Psalm 40 Ranch) to expand our transformational program as well as to build a training center for Christian counseling and spiritual healing. Our other current needs include financial support for administrative staff, gainful employment for our men, and more bed space & staff for expansion. Please join us in declaring supernatural debt cancellation and for a mighty move of the Spirit's freeing work in the lives of His precious ones.