

THE AGAPIAN

July 2014 — Agape Church of the Brethren

The Power of the Story

On June 8, I shared the story of how a person, who may have been an angel transformed my attitude toward poor people. I met a man who seemed to be lying to me in order to gain my sympathy so that I would give him some money. And the man proved to be telling the truth. I failed to mention how I got to know the man in the process of helping him repair his vehicle and get on his way. When I regarded the man's humanity, my attitude toward him changed.

Jesus defended Himself for healing a woman on the Sabbath by telling those who would accuse Him, "this woman is a daughter of Abraham." (Luke 13:16) He constantly forced people to look past the ideology of their religious and secular positions to the human consequences of their judgment. Jesus reclined at supper in the house of Simon the Pharisee and while Simon was judging Jesus for letting a prostitute touch Him, Jesus was considering the woman. He knew Simon's mind and although Simon correctly knew who and what the woman was, Jesus asked him to go beyond his judgment and said: "do you see this woman?" (Luke 7:44)

Jesus taught us a new way of perceiving one another. He taught us to look at people as individuals and see their needs instead of judging them by our own worldview. We can get so caught up in our own perceptions that we forget what it is like to be someone who is different.

As a child, I developed my love for reading through the autobiographies of some of our nations great leaders. One of the most poignant stories I read was Benjamin Franklin's. Franklin let this axiom guide his life, taken from a Native American proverb: "Never judge a man until you walk a mile in his shoes (moccasins)." Understanding people comes from knowing their story. And the story transforms us from judgmental to loving Christians.

When I regard the marginalized in our society, the minorities, the majority, the poor, the rich, the right, the left, the undocumented, those with different gender identities, and every one else who is ostracized by one group or another I remember that every one of them has a story that has shaped their lives. And my first allegiance is to the Kingdom of God and the King calls them "neighbor" and "brother/sister." I/we must do the same.

-Pastor Phil

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RESERVE THESE DATES...

The Search Committee is requesting that you save the dates of August 16 & 17 to meet our Pastoral candidate. On Saturday, August 16 there will be a carry-in dinner in the evening with some meet & greet/question time, and on Sunday, August 17, our Pastoral Candidate will provide the sermon with a Council Meeting and a vote following the service.

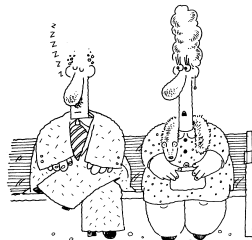


Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching.

- C.S. Lewis

Senior Moments

The next Senior Moments meeting is on **Wednesday, July 2nd at 12:00 noon.** Bring a covered dish to share!



CAMP MACK FESTIVAL

Plan now to be a part of the Camp Mack Festival on October 4!

To sign up for a booth at the Food Court contact: Marie Tom, 574-518-2415 or email at grandkidsrus24@gmail.com.

To enter a scarecrow, contact: Linda Starr, 574-936-2358 or email at lls0527@comcast.net.

To offer a demonstration, contact: Tim or Amy Strycker, 574-538-1127 or email at atstrycker@yahoo.com.



2014 4-H Chicken BBQ Dinner (20th year)

Again, the Agape Church Board is serving High's BBQ chicken at the 4-H Fair on Thursday, July 24 from 5 p.m. to approximately 9 p.m. We will need people to bake desserts, donate various items and volunteers to work. Please set this date aside to help with this event. Also, please tell all your friends and family about our dinner. Sign-up sheets will be posted the first of July. This year the proceeds will go equally



to the Messick Family (missionaries), Huntertown Park and Camp Mack. If you have any new ideas to help make this event more successful or questions, see Vicki Welch.

Do you have a bucket list?

by Joyce Musser

Summer is officially here at last!! (Remember those vows you made back in Jan. to NOT complain about the summer heat?) Have you formed a “bucket list”? The whole point of creating a bucket list is to help you live your life to the fullest here on planet earth. Okay, most of us might never have enough free time or extra \$\$\$ to accomplish all these ideas, but surely you’ve found a few that you can check off your list? It can contain a variety of goals you wish to achieve or dreams you want to fulfill. If you don’t live your days by personal goals and making plans, chances are you spend most of your time caught up in a flurry of day-to-day basic activities in place of looking forward to new experiences. The items on your bucket list don’t necessarily need to cost lots of \$\$\$: become a mentor, learn origami, play a new instrument, learn sign language, connect with past teachers to thank them, learn to juggle, build a bird house, have a water balloon fight, camp in a tent in the backyard, be in a flashmob, learn a new language, create a family tree, do volunteer work, crank up some homemade ice cream, or even just learn a new vocabulary word every day. When \$\$\$ is not an issue, why not go for a hot air balloon ride, or jump out of an airplane, visit a castle, get a passport and fly first class, go on a mission trip, swim with the dolphins, see the Northern Lights, buy a sailboat, ride a Segway, go scuba diving, snorkeling, or whale watching?

Rose Black’s bucket list includes traveling to the Grand Canyon, the Painted Desert, and Hawaii. Charlotte Schafer has a very thoughtful list: to study and learn more about the Bible, to improve her musical tunes on the organ and maybe learn to play the banjo so that she can play it around the campfire, to finish her life quilt and her life story for her family, and to travel and write a novel on the journey. Ray and Becky Imhoff’s list includes going on a Canadian train trip, a tour of Alaska, and Becky wants to complete a quilt.

This time of year, folks usually have a list full of stuff to do before the season of sandals and swimming ends. Most of these lists include ways to keep kids busy and having family fun times like pool parties, BBQ’s, camping, baseball, or vacation trips. Since we all seem to be so much busier nowadays, we need to take time to plan ahead and focus on our future adventures. While we cannot slow down time, we should make the most of the moments we do share with our family and friends.

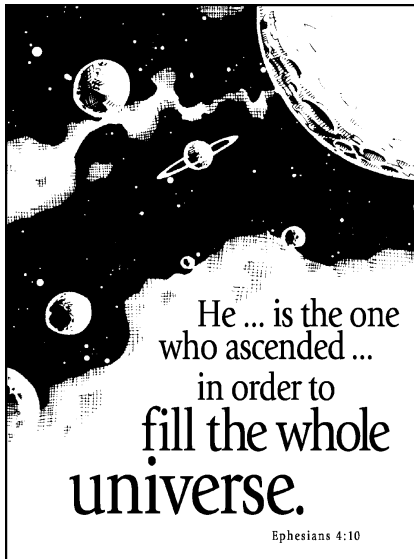
Now, just what’s on your bucket list?

“My lifeguard walks on water.”



Family Time

Every Thursday, the Museum of Art is free from 5 – 8 p.m.
Also, the last Saturday of every month admission is only a
\$1 per person.



*Write down all your
troubles in the sand.
Carve all of your
blessings in stone.*

Camp Mack Golf Event

Saturday, August 16 @ Sycamore Golf Club in North Manchester. If interested in participating, please contact the church office, we have a registration form.



JULY 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 6:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Scouts Peter Klopfenstein	2 Annual Conference 12:00 Senior Moment.	3 → 6:30 pm B4G 6:30 pm Aerob-ex Anne Wetzel	4 → 8 am Men's Breakfast* Joan Sievers Independence Day	5 → Bob & Kristina Musser
6 Annual Conference ends Mike & Maxine Cavins	7 6:30 pm Aerob-ex Becky Flickinger Joan Brenneman	8 6:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Crafty NG* Martha Jane Rust	9 Irene Kite	10 6:30 pm B4G 6:30 pm Aerob-ex	11 12	
13 Deacon's Meeting Flickinger's host	14 6:30 pm Aerob-ex TJ Musser	15 6:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Scouts	16 6:00 pm Board Meeting	17 6:30 pm B4G 6:30 pm Aerob-ex Ron & Diana Spurgeon	18 19 NYC →	
20 → TJ Musser	21 → 6:30 pm Aerob-ex Doug & Vicki Welch	22 → 6:30 pm Scouts	23 → 10 am Daytime NG	24 NYC ends 6:30 pm B4G 6:30 pm Aerob-ex Andy Shipe	25 26 Keilynn McCoy Becky Imhoff	
27 Bob Hunt	28 6:30 pm Aerob-ex Anita Gross	29 6:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Scouts Jack & Beth Green	30 Charlotte Schafer	31 6:30 pm B4G 6:30 pm Aerob-ex		

* Denotes an event held outside the church. Contact the person in charge of that event for details. Red = Anniversary Blue = Birthday



Agape Church of the Brethren

11610 Lima Road

Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Phone: 260 489 6908

E-mail: agapefort@frontier.com

Sent to our friends at:



Continuing the Word of Jesus—Peacefully. Simply. Together.

I wish heaven had visiting hours.

“My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19

It doesn't matter how slow you go as long as you don't stop.

