

FIRST CHRONICLES JUNE 2018

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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June 2018

Pastor Mike Hagan

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We are all terminal. When we hear someone has received a terminal diagnosis, how do we respond? What do we say if we meet them somewhere or see them in a store or think about offering our condolences in some manner? Our “awkwardness” often befuddles the person we are trying to encourage.

Let me suggest some things you don’t want to say and share what you might say or do to help their journey.

Don’t say:

- “Doctors can work miracles today.” Of course, medicine has come a long way, but we need to be careful volunteering something that may be impossible. We don’t want to produce false or naïve hope. “You’ll be okay.” Maybe they won’t. The only Miracle Worker has a perfect will that may not jive with our or their hopes. Don’t play God.
- Related to the previous one, don’t say, “I had an aunt with something similar. They’ve improved their techniques since then.” Catch the “had” and “since” words?
- “At least you’re a believer and know where you’re going.” True, if they’ve trusted Christ, but they want to live too. And learn from Job’s supposed friends and don’t volunteer that some sin may have brought this issue about. Maybe, but maybe not. God knows. Let him be himself.
- “I know a case that was a lot worse than yours.” Maybe true, but we need to be sensitive to their situation, not other cases.
- “I know how you feel.” Unless you *are* that person, you can’t know how they feel. Everyone is different and reacts to illness, events, family, and much more, in different ways.

Don’t react:

- With remoteness or awkwardness or even avoidance. This is a time when everyone needs friends who hang with him or her. It helps to voice your timidity with the prognosis.
- With too much verbiage. Our inadequacies in response to bad news leads to over-talk that hides our feelings of inadequacy. Silence with a friend can be the best medicine. At least allow your friend to talk about his or her feelings or to remain silent.
- Like the topic will go away. “Let’s act like its not there.” It, whatever it is, will still be there during or after anything you do together to avoid the subject. Sometimes I find it helpful to do something a person likes doing, but don’t pretend the matter will go away if you stay busy enough.

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Do:

- Be a presence in the person's life.
- Admit your feelings over the issue and promise you will keep them in your prayers and thoughts. Give a specific time you will pray for them. Tell them when that was, the next time you visit.
- Maintain contact in intentional ways. Drop by. Take the person for a sundae. Sit and talk awhile. Or just sit in silence. Send a text or a note.
- Ask if you can do anything for them. Ask more than once; they may not have something in mind the first time and might think of something later and are waiting for you to ask again.
- Talk about spiritual matters. If it's important to you, the person will appreciate your heartfelt concern, no matter whether a believer or not.

We have a hope in Christ that passes all understanding. Luis Palau, the Spanish-speaking evangelist, received news he has terminal lung cancer. He knows the joy of relationship with the Lord that will intensify soon, but feels a sadness over the upcoming loss of family and friends. Those sentiments demonstrate a biblical understanding and perspective on a condition we all have. Imitate Luis for he imitates Paul and Jesus. "Rejoice in the Lord always . . ."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



June 1 Audrey Winter
3 Gladys Schneiderman
Brad Van Tubergen
4 Roger Kooiker
Glenn Winter
5 Jeff Schrick
Matthew Wagenaar
8 Harlan Doeden
9 Thomas DeBoer
13 Jillian DeBoer
14 Darren Kramer
15 Janelle Kooiker
17 Michelle DeKam
18 Terresa Wagenaar
23 Donna DeBoer
23 Paula Harms
25 Kristi Tiedeman
26 Jordan Wagenaar
27 Daryl Kramer
28 Janessa Reck
30 Mike Reemtsma

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



June 2 Darren and Julie Kramer
3 Henry and Joan Boneschans
5 Glenn and Audrey Winter
6 Sweer and Florence Arends
11 Alan and Terresa Wagenaar
12 Clinton and Glenda DeBoer
Josh and Bethany Doorenbos
Dustin and Kayla Reck
13 Steve and Ronda Arends
15 Daryl and Mary Kramer
16 Arie and Darlene Bliik
17 Roger and Charolette Jurrens
22 Jeff and Jodi Schrick
24 Bradley and Abby Kramer
24 Bobby and Rachel Sizemore
26 Cody and Sara Johnson





Rick & Debbie Bardin- Cameroon, Africa

Rick and Debbie work in the Mbanga Baptist Hospital in which Rick is a pathologist and started the Pathology service at the hospital. Debbie works in the HIV outpatient clinic in which she sees about 1200 patients each month. She enjoys getting to know her patients and counsel them spiritually through scripture cards and discussions of God's word.

In their last visit to First Baptist, they told us about Dr. Mbanga going to Kenya for pathology residency. There has been a doctor's strike lately, therefore slowing down his training. Please pray for the strike to end.

Additional prayer requests are for the hospital to be a continued safe haven for the community where Christ is shared with all. Please pray that they will be able to attend the Triennial conference in July and spend time with family in Tennessee.

One of the praises Rick shared was that even in the midst of unrest, they have more opportunities to pray with the patients and share the good news of where our trust is and where our HOPE comes from.

~Mission Board

SCHEDULES

GREETERS

Sunday, June 3

Harold & Helen Eben

Sunday, June 10

Jeff & Cindy Eben

Sunday, June 17

Cody & Sara Johnson

Sunday, June 24

Roger & Charolette

NURSERY WORKERS

Sunday, June 3

Donna

Sunday, June 10

Amber, Ross

Sunday, June 17

Lynette

Sunday, June 24

Jolene, Terresa

Thank You!

Thank you so much for the gift and the prayers for our little new addition! They were much appreciated and we are so happy to have Daniel at home with us!

~ Eric & Sarah Gruis

Thank you to Pastor and Barbie & Dennis and Gracia for their visit the day of my surgery. Thanks to the Church for the plant and to all for the cards and prayers.

~Roger Kooiker



Step By Step He'll Lead Us
The Middelburgs
June, 2018



In the past few months we have been advocating for our 84 year old homeless friend to get a safe place to live. She's has been living on the streets with her son for decades. We've been praying and waiting for the right opportunity to be ready for this breakthrough. Her sole focus and only priority in life is to be with her son and make sure he is ok. The problem is that he uses her social security check every month to support his addictions. We've asked for prayer for them in the past. We've been in contact with her daughter who lives out of state.

A couple months ago, the hospital social worker called Bill at the Salvation Army. She had been admitted after her son had hit her. Her son was arrested. The only contact she had on her was Bill at the Salvation Army. Bill had contact information for her daughter who lives out of state and put the social worker in touch with her. From there, she was transferred to a Korean nursing home in the city of Chicago. When we went to visit her she said it felt like a foreign country because she didn't hear anyone speaking English. She was so relieved to see us and begged us to take her out of there. We told her that we would try to get her into a place closer to Des Plaines.

The nursing homes and assisted living places wouldn't take her because of not having a social security card or medical insurance information. She gets her mail at the Salvation Army and thankfully we had an application for a social security card on file, which we passed along to her daughter, who submitted it and got a duplicate mailed to our office. She was evaluated for the nursing home on a day her mind was very clear, and was determined to be a good fit for an assisted living apartment in Des Plaines, ironically across the parking lot from the 7-11 she and her son used to sleep behind (in the bushes).

Over the past week, she has been sporadic with staying at her new place. She often hands in her keys in the morning and goes out walking for miles and miles around the suburbs looking for her son. She slept in the Des Plaines police station one night, instead of going back to the apartment. One of the hardest things with people that have been homeless for so many years is they really don't remember how to "survive" living in a place they don't have to constantly be wondering where their next meal is going to come or where they are going to sleep for the night. We have heard this from quite a few former homeless individuals how hard it is to get used to sleeping in bed each night and what to do with their time now that it is not consumed with survival.

A few weeks ago, the son called Bill to let him know he was released from jail and in a rehab hospital. A few days ago her son got out of the rehab hospital. He is still sober and wants to get a job. We're praying that this is the time he can stay on track. We haven't told him yet that we know where his mom is staying, but we have told him that she has her own apartment and needs to be encouraged to stay there!

On a different note, we're getting geared up to host 2 summer mission teams in July. We hope to do quite a bit of painting, some home repairs, a homeless picnic, a block party for the mobile home community next to us, devotions and good conversation about each day, sightseeing, etc. We're excited to have the opportunity to host mission teams this year!

Prayers and Praise:

- ~Please pray for homeless friend and her son, they their relationship with God will grow.
- ~Please pray for summer schedules.
- ~Praise God for warmer weather for those who work and sleep outside.
- ~Praise God opportunities to serve Him every day.

Bill, Deb, Darien, Brandi, BilliJo, and BobbiJo
20 West Touhy Ave ~ Lot 149
Des Plaines, IL 60018

VBS "POLAR BLAST"

First Baptist "Polar Blast" VBS is **Saturday, June 2**. If you are working at VBS, please be at the church by 10:00 am and wear your VBS shirt.

If you are a parent, please have your child to the church by 10:20 so that they can sign-in and find their group for the day. They can be picked up at 4 pm, and will have a project that they can take home. Lunch will be provided.

Because most children will be going to camp the next day, the VBS kids will not be singing songs in church that Sunday, but there will be a slideshow with pictures from the day.

If you have any questions, please let Rachel Kramer know at 763-381-4265 or at raemarrey@gmail.com

VILLAGE CREEK BIBLE CAMP

Please keep the following campers in your prayers as they attend Village Creek Bible Camp this summer.

Junior Camp 1 (June 3-9): Payton Arends, Ava deBoer, Ethan deBoer, Evalyn deBoer, Cole denHoed, Kody denHoed, Lexi DeWeerd, Austin Eben, Jacey Eben, Cloey Fluit, Erika Fluit, Caleb Kooiker, Kirra Mitchell, Ava Reemtsma, Hayden Stettnichs

Teen Camp 1 (June 10-16): Kaylee Fluit, Makayla Fluit, Carter Schleisman, Devon Stowell

Senior High Camp (June 17-23): Autumn Long, Whitney Groote

Teen Camp 2 (July 22-28): Jace Schrick

SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC ~ SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2018

Everyone is asked to bring chips, salad, and/or dessert.

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided.

APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE

Christian Education Committee

BUYING

Alyssa den Hoed

Donna De Boer

CHILDREN'S GAMES

Sharon De Boer

Lynette Wagenaar

Mary Kramer

BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT

Donna De Boer

SOFTBALL GAME COORDINATORS

Jason Christians

Daryl Kramer

Darren Kramer

LEMONADE

Paul and Sharilyn Reemtsma

Keith and Terrilyn Arends

GRILLING

Kevin Wagenaar Alan Wagenaar

Greg De Boer

TABLE WAITERS AND WAITRESSES

Josh Doorenbos

Senior High Youth

Junior High Youth

ICECREAM DIPPERS

Sunday School Teachers

TABLE SET UP

Ushers

COLLECTING FOR RACES

Ross Kooiker

Gerald den Hoed

COLLECTING FOR THE BUYING COMMITTEE

Merlyn Winter

Nolan Kooiker

KITCHEN COMMITTEE (GROUP 5)

Jenn Stowell

Sandy Doeden

Jodi Schrick

Stacie De Boer

Sharilyn Reemtsma Ashley Van Tubergen

Julie Kramer

Connie Christians

Gwen Winter

Donna De Boer

Glenda De Boer

Ronda Arends