

FIRST CHRONICLES

MAY 2019

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May 2019

Pastor Mike Hagan

Revival is a key word in Baptist traditions. Up through the 1950s almost every Baptist church had revival meetings at some point in the year. In some areas they still occur although now they might be every few years and be more focused on evangelism than revival.

In the view of the writer of Chronicles, the biggest difference between the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah was the push for spiritual reform in Judah. Usually the pushes came from godly kings who heeded the words of the prophets and used their positions to lead revival. Over the next five weeks we will examine how these kings attempted to revive the spiritual lives of the kingdom of Judah.

In concluding a section on aims, themes, theology, and ideology in Chronicles, Sara Japhet says, “Thus, Chronicles is a comprehensive expression of the perpetual need to renew and revitalize the religion of Israel” (49), or as I might say it, we need to constantly be in a state of renewal and revival. As the hymn writer penned it, “prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the one I love.” It is a perpetual need.

Let me share with you (and with myself) what perspectives might help revival become a reality in our lives.

- 1) Realize that every person needs revival.
 - One of the greatest roadblocks to revival surfaces when we project who needs revival and it is not usually us. Unless we understand *our* daily need, we end up looking at other people and missing our own need for spiritual freshness. It’s always easier, it seems, to find fault with someone else.
- 2) Perceive that revival requires a day-by-day commitment.
 - Yhwh’s love and mercy is “new every morning” (Lam 3:23).
 - Try praying when you arise in the morning, Lord, what new mercy do you have for me today?
- 3) Grasp that apathy, indifference, or callousness pushes revival away when it is most necessary.
 - Lots of attitudes hinder revival in our lives. The results of lack of spiritual connection show up in a lack of peace, a bitter spirit, a loss of happiness, a lapse of hope, and many other spiritual maladies.
- 4) Understand that revival impacts a person’s whole life.
 - Spiritual lethargy causes suffering and weakness in a person’s personal well being, in his or her family life, with employment relationships, and ultimately in church and community life.
 - If we allow God to refresh us, every area of our lives will be impacted.

Chronicles tells about five kings who led revival in the nation under their charge. In the end Judah did not listen well enough and God dramatically entered into their existence with disciplinary action – they were sent into exile by the Babylonians in 586 BCE.

Through May, read 2 Chronicles to gain a background to the messages. We will look specifically at Asa (2 Chron 15), Jehoshaphat (2 Chron 19), Joash (2 Chron 24), Hezekiah (2 Chron 29), and Josiah (2 Chron 34), all kings of Judah. The northern confederation experienced no attempts at revival and went into exile in 722-21 BCE under the rod of the Assyrians. In Judah, because of the attempts to bring revival with its repentance of sin and turning back to the Lord, punishment was delayed for 135 years.

My prayer is that God’s Holy Spirit would revive us in the weeks ahead. Lord, start with me. Make me open and sensitive to hear you speaking into my life. May every area of my life be impacted by new life in your love and mercy, O Lord.



Rick and Debbie Bardin - Cameroon, Africa

In Rick and Debbie's last letter, they stressed there is still a crisis going on in Cameroon. The unrest has not ended at this time, so the roads leading into the hospital are still blocked. This means there are fewer patients at the hospital because they cannot get there, or they have passed away. At times it takes a lot of hours or days for the residents to get to the family burial plots. Houses and property are looted and at times residents hurt or killed. Some of the people hide their belongings in the bush.

Rick is keeping busy with pathology cases; Debbie is needing to find creative ways to get her HIV medications to the patients. They have started giving patients ID numbers so they can continue going to the hospital and get treatments. In January, the Lord provided a new telepathology system in the lab allowing them to email slides to other pathologists for an additional reading. Praise the Lord there are those that are free to help. In February, there was a shut-down meaning no movement other than walking. It is necessary for the roads to open, so patients get treatment as well as keep the hospital running.

Please pray that God answers prayers and there will be peace. Also Pray the hospital will be able to recover financially. Prayers are needed that the roads will be opened and safe for patients to return to the hospital for care.

~Mission Board

WOMEN'S SPRING LUNCHEON

All women are invited to the spring luncheon hosted by CHC on May 5, 2019 at 11:30 AM. Please join us. Guest speakers will be the women from the Holy Land trip. Please sign up by Wednesday, May 1st. The offering will go to the kids for help in sending them to camp.



SCHEDULES

GREETERS

Sunday, May 5

Brandon & Katie DeBoer

Sunday, May 12

Bryan & Rachel Kramer

Sunday, May 19

Darren and Julie Kramer

Sunday, May 26

Daryl & Mary Kramer

NURSERY WORKERS

Sunday, May 5

Amber

Sunday, May 12

Barbie

Sunday, May 19

Donna

Sunday, May 26

Terresa

Thank you for your prayers and for the flowers that was delivered to us.
~Sweer Arends

Thank you for all who helped and donated food for the Sunrise service and breakfast.



VBS will be on Saturday, June 29 from 9-3:30. It is for anyone who is 4 years old through 6th grade (going into). Forms to attend were given out at Awana and were due 4/24, but if you forgot to hand yours in, or want to invite someone, please contact either the church or Rachel Kramer (763-381-4265 or raemarrey@gmail.com) to get the registration information.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the church foyer for volunteers for that day, as well as some items that are needed for VBS. If you have any questions, please contact either the church or Rachel Kramer.

Congratulations Graduates!



Brandon Kramer
(Ellsworth Public School)

*"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us
an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."
(2 Corinthians 4:17)*

Son of Daryl and Mary Kramer

Brother of Brittany, Bryan, Brooke, Bradley, Bridget &
Brenna

High School Activities: Basketball & Track

Brandon plans to attend NCC for Industrial & Commercial
Wiring.

CONGRATULATIONS BRANDON!

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO AN OPEN HOUSE:
HONORING BRANDON KRAMER
JUNE 2ND FROM 11:00-2:00 PM AT THE TOWN
& COUNTRY BUILDING IN LITTLE ROCK.**



Samuel Kramer
 (Ellsworth Public School)

*"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law."
 (Deuteronomy 29:29)*

Son of Darren and Julie Kramer
 Brother of Molly, Hannah, Daniel & Timothy
 High School Activities: Cross Country, Basketball & Track
 Samuel plans to attend NCC in Sheldon.

CONGRATULATIONS SAMUEL!

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO AN OPEN HOUSE:
 HONORING SAMUEL KRAMER
 JUNE 1ST FROM 11:00-2:00 PM
 HERE AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.**

Happy Birthday & Anniversary

May	1	Mary Eben Jaren Schrick Kory and Dawn Hayenga	May	16	Harold Eben Vic Renken
	2	Shelby Hayenga		17	Lucas Eben Landon Reck
	4	Paul Reemtsma Dean and Donna Shelly		18	Gloria Kruse Kim Winkowitsch
	5	Caleb Johnson		19	Abby Kramer
	6	Jared Fluth		20	Joshua Doorenbos
	10	Sara Johnson Harold and LeAnn Doeden		23	Timothy Kramer Brandon and Katie DeBoer Jeff and Cindy Eben
	11	Becky Peterson		26	Sharon DeBoer Samuel Kramer
	12	Devon Stowell		27	Kent and Paula Harms
	13	Herm and Linda Christians Dan and Jodi DeGroot		29	Kricket Arends
	14	Robert Zamarron		30	Mike Reemtsma



**Step By Step He'll Lead Us
The Middendorps
May, 2019**



Happy Spring or whatever season you find yourself in these days! Although the season that I (Deb) worked at The Salvation Army Territorial Headquarters was short, it has a lasting impact on me. Part of my responsibilities in the Circulation Department was to read through all of the prisoners' requests to receive a donated War Cry subscription. The War Cry is a Salvation Army evangelism magazine that has been distributed in the bars, brothels, and street corners since the late 1800s.

The prisoners can also add prayer requests which broke my heart. A lot of the prayer requests are for safety during their incarceration, and also for their family members (for their relationships with them and for their health). It really hit me hard to learn more about what their struggles are, but encouraged me that many of them are so hungry for the Word of God. They yearn for more Christian literature and to join a Bible Correspondence program. It has made me realize how blessed we are to have multiple Bibles in our homes every day, and the many opportunities we get to have conversations with others about God, His love, and Salvation through Jesus Christ.

We know the importance of spiritual strengthening of people behind bars. We've seen numerous examples of people coming out of prison with very bad attitudes. We have one guy that we have ministered to on street outreach for the last 5 years; the longest he has ever been outside of the prison walls is two weeks at a time. He comes out on the street looking for fights and looking for drugs. Last time, he beat up three people who were hospitalized, and he ends up back in prison.

We've also seen the opposite. We had a guy who was in the penitentiary for 25 years for murder. He found Christ behind bars and came out with an amazing attitude and is doing great!. Another bellringer, who is a Christian, was on the wrong path at the wrong time hanging out with the wrong crowd. He was incarcerated for 17 years. During this time, his marriage stayed strong, his two sons have grown into their teen years without getting involved in gangs or drugs. He testifies to the power of prayer that has protected his family all those years. He has recently found full time employment, and they are expecting another baby this year!

Prayers and Praise:

~Please pray for all of the prisoners, that they feel God's presence right where they are, and that they seek forgiveness, find peace, encouragement, and strength in the Lord.

~Please pray for our ministry as spring changes living situations for our homeless friends. The local shelters close in May, and they will need to find shelter and food every day. Pray that they also find Jesus.

~Praise God for His continued provision and direction as we trust Him step by step.

~Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

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