

Kootenai Communicator

July
2019

The monthly newsletter of Kootenai Community Church, Kootenai, Idaho

Important Dates <<<

4 Independence Day

Coming in August -- Church Campout!

*Expounding the Scriptures, Exhorting the Saints,
Exalting the Savior*

God Doesn't Whisper Chapter 1: Crisis at College, Pt. 2

By Jim Osman, Pastor/Teacher

For the next number of months, the newsletter column will feature excerpts from chapters of Pastor Jim's forthcoming book titled God Doesn't Whisper, available sometime in fall of 2019. This new book critiques the widely popular belief in modern evangelicalism that God gives personal and private revelation outside of Scripture. It is a popular belief that God whispers new and fresh words to us through promptings, nudgings, a "still, small voice," and various other means.

This month features the second half of chapter 1 titled "A Crisis at College."

Scripture appeared to be jam-packed with examples of believers who heard God speak: Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, David, Solomon, Daniel, Peter, Paul, Cornelius, and countless others. Couldn't God just break His silence long enough to do for me what He had done for so many others?

I comforted myself with the thought that maybe I didn't have enough knowledge of the Bible to qualify as one who got to hear the voice of God. Maybe I needed to be more mature and spiritual before John 10:27 would apply to me. After all, I wasn't nearly as well-taught and mature in the faith as many of my

classmates. When I showed up at Bible college, I knew nothing, and I mean NOTHING. I was light-years behind all my classmates. Many of them were raised in the church and some of them were children of staff at the school. Perhaps my problem was a lack of knowledge.

So, I decided to give God His "out."

"Lord, if it is Your will for me to return next year, then I need a sign. If You want me back then cause my whole second year's tuition to be paid in full. Then I will know Your will. That will be a clear sign that would convince friends and family back home that You are supernaturally directing this decision. Please do for me what you did for Gideon—just give me a sign. Amen."

Nothing.

Maybe my request had been too ambitious. I should probably dial it back a bit to something more reasonable.

"Ok, Lord, just half a year's tuition. Cause someone to just pay for the first semester. And I will take that as a sign that you want me to return."

Nothing.

"Lord, if someone steps forward and sends in money that will cover my books for second year, then I know that it is Your will. Never mind tuition, all I ask for is enough money for my books." Suddenly I felt less like Gideon with a fleece and more like Abraham negotiating with God to spare a city.

Still nothing.

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I was distraught. I **wanted** to come back for second year, but God wasn't giving me a sign to confirm it. I wasn't hearing Him tell me what He wanted me to do! Why was God being so silent? Didn't He love me? Wasn't He interested in my future? Didn't He know what was at stake? Couldn't the God who spoke the universe into existence and created all things simply give me a little word, a whisper, a nudge, ... SOMETHING? I would even take sign language over silence!

Why wasn't I hearing from God? I needed direction - specific guidance - like I had never needed it before. Why was I unable to hear when all my friends seemed to be getting their personal messages just fine? Maybe something was wrong with me!

The Insignificance of It

The crisis in college was monumental to me as a young believer. What I needed from God seemed so simple and small. I just needed a sign, some pointer, some indication, no matter how small.

I wasn't asking God for direction concerning a decision with a large number of possible options. I had it narrowed down to two. That seemed easy enough. I wasn't asking for a burning bush or a pillar of cloud and fire to guide me. In fact, I wasn't asking for any kind of "miraculous" sign at all. It was a small ask.

I was praying, looking, and listening as best I knew how. I kept my eyes open and tried to discern in everything any kind of hint or suggestion that might be from Him. How hard could it possibly be for the God of all the universe to just drop me a few breadcrumbs to show the way? Even if I was ignorant, unknowledgeable, and immature in my faith, why should that have kept God from being able to communicate clearly with me? Why would my lack of perception create such an insurmountable obstacle to hearing God's voice? Is God unable to speak loudly and clearly? Can't He get His message across, even to one who isn't adept at picking up the signals?

I couldn't believe that God was unable to clearly communicate when He needed to do so. It didn't seem that the issue was with God's ability. It didn't seem that the problem was with me either. I was certainly "hungry enough" to hear from God. I couldn't have desired to hear from Him more. I was desperately longing for clear guidance. I micro-analyzed every thought, feeling, intuition, nudging, and prompting that popped into my anxious brain. I examined every event, circumstance, and happening around me, trying to wring out of them some meaning which might be a clear marker of the divine will.

Eventually I started to wonder, *"If God doesn't lack the power to speak, and I do not lack the passion to hear, then maybe the problem is with my understanding*

of how God communicates to His people." I started to entertain the idea that I was wrong about the way God speaks. Was I expecting God to do something He had not promised? Did I really need a sign or a revelation of some kind to know and do the will of God? Did I need information not revealed in Scripture?

The Question Nobody Asked

The prevailing wisdom among the student body was that God gives guidance and personal revelation for decision-making. We must listen for Him and learn to cultivate the discipline of hearing His voice. I had just assumed that all the talk I heard about God leading His people through the "still, small voice," nudgings, promptings, and impressions was biblical. I accepted it without any misgivings. I heard mature Christians speak as if God were whispering certain directions in their ears. I assumed I was missing out on this kind of intimate conversation due to my own lack of piety or maturity.

I figured it would only be a matter of time before I could achieve that level of spirituality. Soon I, too, would learn the essential discipline of divining the signs and hearing the voice of God. Eventually, I would be able to move forward with my decisions and my day-to-day activities with the confidence that I was being guided by God's voice. Someday, I believed, I could have that real and personal relationship where God conversed with me through signs and whispers.

The crisis of my first year in college began to unravel this way of thinking. Was this really what the Bible taught? I had always assumed it was, simply because so many Christians I knew believed and practiced it.

It wasn't until my fourth year at Millar that the pieces finally came together. A beloved college professor confronted our class with what should have been the most obvious question of all: "Does the Bible teach that God directs His people in this way?" This should be the only question we are interested in answering, but it seems to be the last one entertained in the mind of the one who thinks they are receiving divine revelation.

The Non-Charismatic View

As you might guess, this view of hearing God's voice was not just the prevailing thinking among the student body of which I was a part. It is the predominant view of modern evangelicalism. I have encountered countless believers who make decisions based on a subjective impression, a sign, or a still, small voice in their head. I would venture to guess that among non-charismatic Christians, probably more than 80% believe that God continues to give personal revelation to His people. I would not be

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Sunday School <<<



**Sunday School
begins
at 9:30 a.m.**

4th-6th Grade:

Taught by Diane Rich, assisted by Kathy Conger and Holly Haymond

The 4th - 6th grade SS class recently finished 2 Kings and are currently in the Book of Ruth. What a nice change after all those evil kings! Also we're having a contest in which the kids earn points for attendance, being on time, bringing their Bible, following along, and memorizing verses. At the end there will be great prizes and snacks! In September we will start the exciting book of Genesis. If you have kids between the ages of 9 and 12, teachers Diane, Holly, and Kathy would love them to join their class.

>>> Missionary Moment - Marty and Jeanette Windle



Our missionaries, Dr. Marty and Jeanette Windle, serve with BCM, International.

WHAT DOES BCM, INTERNATIONAL DO?

What We Do

BCM International is a global Bible-Centered Ministry dedicated to making disciples of all age groups for the Lord Jesus Christ through evangelism, teaching, and training so that churches are established and The Church strengthened. We have three core ministry focuses: Children's Ministries, Church Development, and Leader & Teacher Training.

Children's Ministries

The 4-14 Window is defined as that window of opportunity between the ages of four to fourteen when more than 85% of Christians make their decision to follow Christ. BCM International has made this strategic window the central focus of its ministry since beginning as the Bible Club Movement in 1936.

Church Development

In order to introduce the lost to Christ and nurture new believers, BCM remains focused on partnering with established churches for the cause of world evangelization. We also seek to plant Bible-believing churches in neighborhoods where none exist, whether in large cities or remote villages. The objective is to ensure that they are culturally relevant and have a vision to reach their own community and beyond.

Leader & Teacher Training

Through Bible institutes, regional and local teacher training and church leadership courses, seminars, college and seminary instruction, small group Bible studies, and hands-on practical ministry opportunities, BCM missionaries are training a new generation of Christian leaders around the world. BCM's Bible curricula *Footsteps of Faith* and *Tiny Steps of Faith* and other publications, along with their teacher training course, *In Step with the Master Teacher*, now available in more than 25 languages, provide Bible-centered and culturally-appropriate resources for local church leadership to disciple and train their membership and evangelize their community for Christ.

Christian Camping

From the wild beauty of Ireland's seashore to the lush tropics of India, Peru or the Caribbean, from the mountains and rural farmlands of North America to a secluded European retreat, BCM Christian camping programs now reach over 25,000 children each year in 25 different countries.

Publications

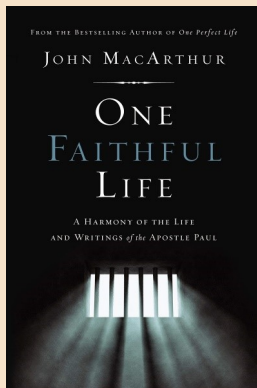
BCM's Genesis-to-Revelation curricula *Footsteps of Faith* and *Tiny Steps of Faith* provide Bible-centered and culturally-appropriate resources for local church leadership to disciple and train their membership and evangelize their community for Christ.

Short-Term Ministries

BCM Short-Term Ministry opportunities are used as a tool for teaching and training individuals for a lifetime of service, whether serving the local church or an unknown people group. We have several types of ministry opportunities: camp staff (for international and USA camps), ESL/cultural exchange, street ministry, 5-day Bible Clubs, puppeteering, Bible teacher's street evangelism, construction work, missionary support staff, and much more. Internships are also available.



>>>Garden of Readin'



One Faithful Life

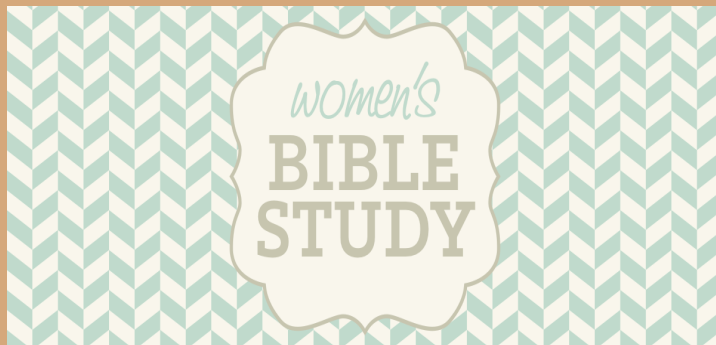
A Harmony in the Life and Letters of Paul

by John MacArthur

"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ ..." This typically humble introduction downplays Paul's role as one of Christianity's most influential figures. In this book, John MacArthur looks at Paul's letters, the book of Acts, and information from the Gospels in light of his life story—from Pharisee and persecutor of the church, to broken and humbled convert, to an apostle of Jesus. Look for it on the "New Testament" shelf.

Please contact Jenny Leo (610-2520) about donations or any library-related matter.

<<<Women's Ministry



SIGN-UPS

STARTING IN AUGUST!

Women's Bible study is open to ALL women post high school. There are again two choices for Women's Bible Study: Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings. Details of what each group is studying, where they will be located, and who is leading will be available in next month's newsletter!

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 1 Peter 2:16



>>>Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp

Please visit the camp website at clbcamp.org for more details.



CAMP DATES

TEEN CAMP: JULY 7-12
AGES 11-12: JULY 14-18
AGES 9-10: JULY 21-25
AGES 7-8: JULY 28-AUGUST 1
FAMILY CAMP: AUGUST 16-18



Student Ministries <<<

**See you in
September!**

Student Ministries
will not be meeting
during the summer.

Thank you for the
great school year and
we will resume stud-
ies in September.

Please be on the
lookout for service
opportunities!



Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp!

A number of the youth work
at the Bible camp during the
summer. Please be in prayer
for our youth, that they may
be a powerful testimony of
the Gospel!



>>>Kootenai Thunder

kootenaithunder.com

For the most current information, please check our website and Facebook page.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The sports season has ended, but that doesn't mean it's over! Plans are already being made for next year. Games are being scheduled. Coaches are being selected. Players are thinking ahead to next year. Kootenai Thunder offers soccer, volleyball, and basketball. If you would like to be involved as a player, coach, donor, or supporter in any way, please contact Tracy Jensen.

>>>Kootenai Classifieds

Place your ad here next month! Email the details to

lisaslippy@gmail.com

by the 15th of the month to get it in!

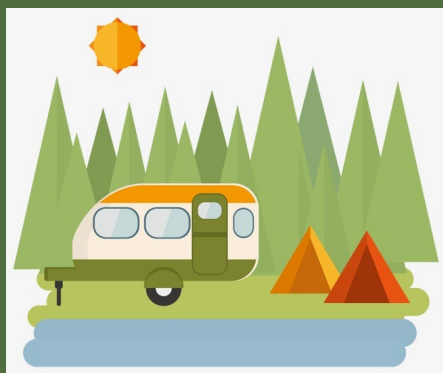
>>>Building Update

In terms of building projects, things have been a bit quiet around here the last few weeks. A few folks have tackled some small projects. Someone is building shelves for the room behind the stage.

We have the money to order doors for the sanctuary and we hope to do that soon. We are waiting on some competitive prices from a few different sources. Our next **big** project will be carpet for the sanctuary. I am hoping we can raise the money, purchase the carpet, and get it down before the Fall Conference. Unfortunately, I (Jim) don't have an estimate on that yet. I am trying to arrange to meet with our flooring supplier here at the church building so we can get an estimate on price.

We are going to start a special little "carpet fund" for that project. If you would like to donate toward the carpet for the new sanctuary, simply mark your contribution "carpet fund" and we will start putting that away toward the cost.

Church News <<<



2019 CHURCH CAMPOUT & BBQ August 21-24

Our annual church campout is coming up next month!

We are blessed to be able to use the Marley Beach Campground again this year. It is a beautiful piece of real estate along the Pend Oreille River that we get to have all to ourselves. There is a wonderful dock for **swimming, boating, and fishing**. There is also a covered pavilion with **picnic tables**, a soft **grassy area for games**, and a sandy **beach and volleyball area**.

We are blessed this year to have had a family cover the cost of the campground rental!!

If you are unable to camp with us, at least plan on the BBQ on Saturday at noon.

KCC ACTIVITY BOARD

WHAT FOR?
To facilitate communication about informal gatherings / events where we can get to know each other better!

facebook 

WHO?
Anyone who calls KCC home

SUCH AS...
hikes, lake swims, playgrounds, concerts, shopping trips, picnics, informal sports, etc.

WHAT?

It's a page on Facebook!



surprised to discover that to be a wildly conservative estimate.

A simple Google search for “Hearing the Voice of God” will churn up a subjective slough of teaching on how to receive personal revelations from God. Amazon offers a prolific selection of titles specifically designed to prepare you to hear from God and teach you to discern His voice. These teachings and titles originate from all across the fruited theological plains. “Private revelation” is no longer the ugly theological stepchild of the charismatic movement. It has been adopted by the broad swath of evangelicalism, finding a warm welcome in traditionally non-charismatic churches.

You might expect charismatic and Pentecostal Christians to affirm continuing personal revelation from God. Those who believe God continues to give prophetic revelation through modern prophets and apostles will most certainly affirm that every believer hears God’s voice for themselves.

Those in the Word of Faith and New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) movements not only teach that God gives private personal revelations to individuals, but that He also gifts both prophets and prophetesses within the church today. They promote the prophetic office and believe God is speaking in the church with the same authority, clarity, and accuracy He once spoke in Scripture.

The NAR movement teaches that “apostles” are again active in the church. They believe God is raising up a new generation of apostles, equal in authority and miracle-working power as the New Testament apostles, to bring His dominion to bear on this earth. Not to be outdone by those in the Word Faith Movement, the extreme claims of NAR teachers regarding miracles and supernatural phenomena are patently absurd and demonstrably false.¹

We would expect charismatics to teach this model of divine guidance, but why do we find this even among non-charismatics?

Your local Christian bookstore is likely to be well-stocked with books on how to hear the voice of God written by non-charismatic pastors of non-charismatic churches who were educated in non-charismatic colleges and seminaries.

For instance, nobody would accuse Charles Stanley of being a charismatic who believes in the continuation of revelatory gifts, yet Stanley wrote *How to Listen to God*. He has produced volumes of articles, videos, books, and sermons on this subject. Zondervan published *The Power of a Whisper* by Bill Hybels, another non-charismatic pastor. Priscilla Shirer, the daughter of popular preacher Tony Evans, has produced numerous books on hearing the voice of God. Shirer has written *He Speaks to Me* and *Discerning the Voice of God*, and her website promotes a plethora of resources designed to instruct Christians on how to hear the voice of God

through various means. Priscilla Shirer is a graduate of the non-charismatic Dallas Theological Seminary.

We might expect the Southern Baptist Convention and their affiliated churches and ministries to hold the line on the continuation of revelation. Yet Henry Blackaby’s book *Experiencing God* has found wide circulation in Baptist circles. Blackaby has single-handedly done more to promote the practice of listening for the voice of God than any other non-charismatic in modern evangelicalism. That accomplishment is due in no small part to the blitzkrieg-like promotion of his books by the Southern Baptist Convention, Lifeway Christian Resources, and a myriad of Baptist pastors across the country.

The infiltration of this theology into non-charismatic circles has been swift and thorough.

Is it biblical?

In the following chapters, I intend to answer that question. I will interact with the teachings of those who promote the “hearing from God” practice and theology. Scripture shall be our guide as we ask the question, “Does the Bible teach that Christians should expect regular personal revelation outside of Scripture?”

What about the crisis at college? Did I ever hear the voice of the Shepherd? No. In the end, I did that which I most desired to do. I wanted to return to college and resume my study of Scripture and theology. If you haven’t guessed by now, I never pursued a career in accounting. I never attended a secular university. I returned to Millar for a second and third year, still without any designs or intention of pursuing or entering full time Christian ministry. Following graduation from the third year, I married my beautiful bride. I took one year off from school and then returned for the newly-minted fourth-year internship program.

I made all those decisions, and thousands of others that have brought me to this point, without nurturing an ability to hear still, small voices. I walk with Christ day by day and enjoy sweet fellowship with Him in His Word. I don’t listen for whispers. I have come to understand that *God Doesn’t Whisper*.

¹For an excellent critique of these charismatic movements and doctrines, check out the ministry of Justin Peters at his website justinpeters.org. The video series of Justin’s seminar *Clouds Without Water* is highly recommended. I would also recommend *Defining Deception* by Costi Hinn and Anthony Wood (Southern California Seminary Press, 2018).





Kootenai Community Church

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Operation Christmas Child

A Kids Packing Party is being planned for September 14 and the kids of KCC need your help! Each month we will be collecting different kinds of items. **During the month of JULY we are collecting CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES.** Pick up a list of ideas on the table in the lobby.

Questions?

Contact

Katie

Moon, 208

-627-3871.



*For you were called to
freedom, brothers. Only
do not use your
freedom as an
opportunity for the
flesh, but through
love serve one another.
Galatians 5:13*