

Acquainted with Grief

By Sarah Dixon Young

A married couple came to me after Sunday school.

They had eaten supper with one of our students, and they were troubled.

“This little girl shouldn’t even know about the things she was telling us,” the wife said.

The husband agreed and asked the girl’s name again so that they could pray for her. Both husband and wife had experienced trauma growing up themselves, and it grieved them to find another child caught in the same malicious trap. Their grief was transformed to



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compassion as they ministered to the girl.

Grief is a funny thing. One minute, I am standing on a step ladder, rummaging through the cabinet for a marinade recipe, and the next min-

ute, faded handwriting on a scrap of paper has me sitting on the floor sobbing.

The grief we experience in ministry isn’t too different.

When I went to visit some children at their home this week, I saw the little one playing outside. As I approached, I realized there was a whole host of adults inside the open door of the house. They were sitting in a circle, all leaned forward, like drummers around a drum.

They weren’t making music, however. When they glimpsed me, there was a wild scramble to

push the door closed to conceal the powders and pills. The child then took my attention. Soiled clothes from the night before clung to the child, even though it was late afternoon. I visited outside for a while, and when I turned to leave, the child clung to me.

“Don’t leave me here alone! Please! Don’t leave me here alone!”

The rest of the day was a haze. I couldn’t concentrate on anything I was reading or the conversations I had. It was hard to complete a task. I wanted to sleep.

Paul Miller, in his book, A Praying Life, writes,

“When you lament, you live simultaneously in the past, present, and future. A lament connects God’s past promise with my present chaos, hoping for a better future. So, on the cross, Jesus cried out, ‘My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?’”

If we allow our grief—whether from loss or from ministry—to overwhelm us, then it remains just grief, crippling us and rendering us useless to the present moment. However, when we allow the Lord to transform our grief to compassion, He uses it to fuel His work in the future.

Jesus was “a man of

sorrows, acquainted with grief.” When we look closely at the times He was grieved, it helps us navigate our own laments.

Jesus wept when His cousin John was executed and when His friend Lazarus died. Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life, but death still grieved Him.

Jesus grieved over the Pharisees’ hardness of heart when He was about to heal the man with the withered hand. He yearned for them to enter into the man’s grief so that He could create in

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Reflection: “The Foundation for Independence Day”

by Fr. Bernard Pfau

We are one year away from observing the 250th anniversary of the Birth of our Nation, which resulted in the War of Independence from England. Our Founders composed the Declaration of Independence to express the hopes and ideals for a new nation, free to form its own constitution to guide this great Nation. And so we believe this Country to be “One

Nation, under God, indivisible, with justice and liberty for all”. July 4th celebrations are meant to keep these key ideas in mind, the foundation for our Independence Day.

The desire for independence was not something new to the Founders of this great Nation. We can trace this movement for freedom and independence back as far as the Old Testament, with the Israelites, under the leadership of Moses,

struggling to be free of slavery and oppression from the Egyptian rulers. The entire Exodus Story is included in the Passover celebration which was central to the Old Testament religious practices. This Story reveals the Hand of God in delivering the Israelites and guiding them to the Promised Land. Thus we can trace our Independence Day celebration back to the deepest desires of the

human race to be free of oppression and free to follow their own dreams for themselves and their loved ones.

Let us not forget that Jesus lived at a time of great conflict between nations. Yes, the Israelites were again being oppressed by the Roman Empire, and they had limited freedom to exercise their religious beliefs. That is why they believed the long-awaited “Messiah” would free

them from foreign rule. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to set people free so they could live as “Children of God”, and not necessarily to be free of all oppression. He teaches us that we must be free of sin before we can achieve true freedom. He held out the Cross as the instrument of our freedom and as the means of our Salvation.

The celebration of Independence Day should consist of more than

picnics and filling the heavens with fireworks. It should remind us of the need we have to turn to Christ as One who alone can lead us to true freedom. He has conquered the world by His love and holds out to you and me the opportunity to really be free of this world that holds in bondage and keeps us from reaching our full potential.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

ASSEMBLY OF GOD River of Life 1903 Hwy 20 Devils Lake 701-662-4582 www.riverlife.us Sunday: 10 a.m. worship	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS 20th St. & Lincoln Ave. Devils Lake Sunday: 10 a.m. Sacrament at 11 a.m.	LIGHTHOUSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD Fort Totten, N.D. 701-766-4826 Sunday 10:30 a.m.	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 515 Fourth St. Devils Lake 662-7558 Monday -Friday at 12:00pm Tuesday at 10:00am at Odd Fellows Wednesday at 10:00am at Eventide Friday at 9:30am at St. Joseph School Saturday at 8:30am & 5:00pm Sunday at 7:30am, 9:00am & 11:00am	ST. WILLIAMS CATHOLIC CHURCH Maddock, N.D. 438-2668 Wednesday: 7 p.m. Mass. Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Mass. Mass at 5 p.m. on the first Friday of the month.
ASSUMPTION OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH Starkweather, N.D. 292-4301 Sunday: Mass: Rotating 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. with St. Mary's, Munich Call 682-5178 (Munich).	DAKOTA BAPTIST CHURCH West Highway 57 Fort Totten Church - 766-4516 Sunday: 11 a.m. worship.	MORNING STAR PARISH 701-262-4714 www.morningstarparish.com Worship services at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. rotating: American, Pekin, Warwick, Sigdal and Sheyenne Lutheran	ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH St. Michael, ND 58370 766-4151 Sunday Mass: 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.	SEVEN DOLORS CATHOLIC CHURCH Fort Totten 766-4314 Sunday: 11 a.m. Mass. Daily Mass: 7 a.m.
BDECAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Tokio, N.D. (2 miles south of Tokio, near Woodlake) 294-2283 www.bdecanpresbyterian-church.org Worship: at 11 a.m., Sunday school kids K - 5 grade during worship, potluck meal after	EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT Sixth Street and Fifth Avenue Devils Lake 11 a.m. Morning prayer 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays Holy Eucharist- 4th Sunday	NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP North Junction of Hwy. 15 & 20 Rural Hamar 262-4470 Sunday: 10:30 a.m. worship service	ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA 601 6th St. NE Devils Lake, ND 662-4911 9:30 a.m. Worship (September - May) Summer: 8:30 a.m. at Retreat Center 11 a.m. at St. Olaf (June - August)	TRINITY-BERGEN AFLC LUTHERAN CHURCH PO Box 46 Starkweather Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion every Sunday
BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH 1312 East Walnut St. Devils Lake 662-3758 www.bethelfree.com Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 601 Fifth St. NE Devils Lake Sunday 9:30 a.m. worship	OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA 612 14th Ave. NE Devils Lake, N.D. 662-5112 Sunday: 10 a.m. Service Wednesday: 6 p.m. Service	ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 7th St. & 7th Ave. 662-2245 Devils Lake Missouri Synod Worship: 11 a.m. Dial-a-Devotion: 662-3158.	WEBSTER CHAPEL Webster, N.D. Worship is at 9 a.m. the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays.
CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH Tokio Saturday: 7 p.m. Mass all year round.	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 311 5th Ave. NE Devils Lake 701-230-1332 Sunday: 10:30am and 6 p.m.	PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (NALC) 1700 Fifth Ave. NE PO Box 1041 Devils Lake, N.D. 662-3565 Worship Sunday 9:30 a.m.	ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH Esmond, N.D. 249-8360 Tuesday-Saturday: Weekday Mass at 9 a.m. Saturday: 5 p.m. Mass. Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass.	WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 501 Fifth St. NE Devils Lake, 662-3584 Sunday worship 11:00 a.m.
CHURCH OF GOD (SEVENTH DAY) 607 Fifth St. S.E. Devils Lake Saturday: 2 p.m.	GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Lakota Missouri Synod Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.	ST. JEROME'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Crow Hill District Hwy. #57, One mile N. Saturday: Mass 5 p.m.	ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH Fort Totten, N.D. 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sundays, 4th Sunday - Morning Prayer	ZOAR FREE LUTHERAN Hampden, North Dakota Pastor Craig Wentzel May through August Worship Sundays 9 a.m.

This week's listing brought to you by the following local businesses:

-Devils Lake Journal & the Country Peddler 516 4th St.,662-2127	-Jerome W wholesale 1115 2nd Ave. NE, 662-5366	-Nordic Fiberglass & All Employees	-Glibertson Funeral Home Hwy2West	-Altru Health System 1001 7th St NE,662-2158
-Eventide Senior Living Communittes	-Leevers Foods 323 5th St. NE,662-4945	-Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 756 314 3rd Ave NE,662-4117	-First United Bank 323 5th St NE,662-4024	