

RCofC NEWSLETTER

RAPPAHANNOCK
CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 2018



I am the way, the truth, and the life.

John 14:6

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This month's column is an edited reprint of my report to the Family Reunion meeting, in case you missed it!

In the late 80s when I started here, every January I wrote a letter, and called it the "State of the Congregation Address." I mailed a copy to every family. Seriously. We've seen a lot of changes since then, obviously. It's my job to give you a brief report on where we were . . . where we are . . . and where we're headed.

The first two are easy.

When we left 9514 Richmond Rd., we had a strong average of about 325 in attendance each Sunday. Our teenagers shared their Sunday School space with young children. It was kid's church at 8:30 a.m., a teen group at 10:00 a.m., and a kid's church again at 11:00 a.m. Our level of child safety and security was very low, simply due to the multiple entrances and exits at our previous building, and the fact that common areas opened onto kids' areas. Our nursery was often empty.

Our parking was fine as long as it hadn't rained much. Our auditorium seating was such that, for the last couple of years, attendance would periodically surge to near 400, but it would always settle back to around 325 because that was a comfortable capacity. And probably other reasons, which I can only theorize about. Our foyer

was nice, but not nearly large enough, and noise from there often detracted from the service.

That's where we were. Today, our nursery is quite literally "crawling" with babies. Our children's Orange groups have doubled attendance for elementary ages. Our teens now have their own dedicated space, and attendance among teens has doubled as well. Our security among the children's areas is not perfect, but it is much, much better, and I personally believe that one of the reasons our elementary program has grown so much is because young parents feel that their children are safe and secure when they're in our care.

Our foyer is spacious, distractions are far more contained, and one of the most common comments we hear is, "When I walked into the front doors, I didn't feel like I was in Warsaw. I felt like I was in a fancy place in Richmond."

Our parking lot, while in dire need of not only first aid, but of major surgery, is far better than what we had. Our auditorium is only being partly used, and is spacious enough that we could DOUBLE our current attendance without going to three services.

Volunteer service has grown exponentially, especially in ministries that we didn't even have until we moved. Those ministries include the FaithWalk Team, First-Time Guest Services, the Dock, Face of RCofC,

Stage Lighting and Set Design, The Finish Team, and others. There are literally dozens more volunteers than we had a year ago.

Finally, our attendance was averaging 325 when we moved, around 480 last fall, and we've averaged over 500 for the last 2 months.

Where we're headed. Spiritually, we're constantly striving to expand and improve adult learning opportunities in study groups, Sunday morning electives, and the like. You'll begin to see a much wider variety of set design beginning next Sunday and changing periodically.

We are scheduling periodic outreach events designed to give you an easy opportunity to introduce seekers to RCofC. This year those four events are the EggStream Egg Drop, The Ride-In, Our 40th Anniversary, and FFOP. We also hope to begin a schedule of concerts, Christian comedians, and the like, from time to time, possibly beginning this year, but certainly by 2019. These would be paid-ticket, community events.

We're working to improve some ministries, and trying to support all of them in the valuable work they do. RCofC's mission mindedness is as strong as any church I know, with our members making a marked difference in Mexico, Standing Rock, and Haiti. We plan to continue to work hard at taking the gospel to the world.

Continued on p. 3

From the Elders



After our last Family Reunion meeting was over, some expressed concern about how we report attendance, so we thought some clarification was in order. Every Sunday, counters try to get an accurate number of people involved in all the various programs. In all areas, there are some who stay for both services, and so they are often counted twice. That's not ideal, but it's not easy to avoid. That's true for adults in worship services, children in the two nursery classes, elementary age kids, and the Dock. We'll use actual numbers from last Sunday for reference and example:

In the early service on Sunday, March 18, we had 25 in the Dock. That's teens + workers. In the later service, there were 15. Most were there for only one service or the other, but some came to both services. That gets reported as 40. Obviously, that's not

40 individual fresh bodies. But that's the most accurate measure of ENGAGEMENT (involvement) that we can get. Our goal is a CONSISTENT measure, so if we always count the same way, we can see increases, decreases, or when we are stagnant. So, if the number (imperfect as it is) is 40 today, and 30 in May, we know we're going the wrong way.

In the elementary department, we had 34 in the early service and 46 in the later service. That's kids + workers. Again, most come for only one or the other, but some are in BOTH services. That's reported as 80. Our goal is not so much knowing exactly how many individuals are in here or in there but trying to measure the involvement and engagement of people. Again, if we report consistently, the same way every Sunday, then we are looking at apples-to-apples and know when we're

going in the right direction and when we're going in the wrong direction.

In the worship auditorium, the numbers for 1st and 2nd services were 194 and 182. Reported as 376.

The nursery numbers are done the same way, but they include both the infant nursery and the 3- to 4-year-old classroom + the workers. So it might be clearer if we said "nursery department" since it's more than one class. Those numbers were 12 in 1st and 23 in 2nd service, including all workers.

Add all of that together for a total of 531 for last Sunday. It's not a perfect system, but we're doing the best we can with two major goals in mind: measuring involvement so we'll know month to month across the year whether we're going up or down and being consistent. We hope this explanation clarifies the reporting.

*"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
Hebrews 10: 23-25*

Connect Cards by Penny Barton

If you regularly attend RCofC and have not filled out and returned a **Connect Card**, please consider doing that ASAP. We use that information to enter you (and your family) into our church database. If we have your name, email address, and contact information, we can add you to the church email list. We regularly send emails with prayer requests, reminders, and announcements.

Being on our email list will keep you up-to-date on what's happening at church. We also will use that information to make sure you have a name

tag to wear each Sunday in May for our "Who Are You?" month, which is our annual attempt to get to know each other a little better. If we don't have your name in our database—even if you attend regularly—we won't be able to pre-print a name tag for you! We promise we won't mail you a bunch of "junk" or bother you with all kinds of phone calls! We just want to know "Who You Are," and filling out and returning a Connect Card is the best way to do that.

You can get a **Connect Card** by asking anyone at the First-Time Guest Services booth in the foyer, or there

CONNECT WITH US

GUEST: 1st time 2nd time 3rd time attend regularly

Service: 9am 10-45am DATE: _____

update my information do not add me to your email list

NAME(S): _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

are some cards on the literature rack on the wall near the Coffee Corner area. You can return that card to the First-Time Guest Services booth or drop it in the offering plate or in the box on the wall next to Coffee Corner.

for Christ's love compels us...
CONNECTING GOD SERVING PEOPLE

Let Me Just Say This (Cont. from p. 1)

Finally, with regard to our physical plant, we have several areas in dire need of attention as soon as we can afford to dive in, in no particular order:

Our signage is almost non-existent. The recent windstorm destroyed what little we had. It is replaced with some temporary signage, and more permanent signage is being professionally designed right now, and we'll be receiving a quote in a matter of days. We desperately need to let people know where we are!

Our auditorium was designed to sound excellent *when we add* acoustical panels, absorbers, and diffusers. Jim is ready to direct that installation as soon as we can afford it.

I am on a personal crusade to relocate our blue auditorium chairs to other areas and overflow use, so that we can make all the chairs in our worship space MATCH. That may not be on your radar, but I want it so bad I can taste it. It's the only bruise on an otherwise beautiful space in my mind.

Finally, a critical need is repair and resurfacing of our parking lot. This need is not just an aesthetic or appearance issue. It is literally crumbling now, and the longer we wait, the more damage that occurs, and the more expensive the eventual fix.

In closing, we have some major challenges ahead of us, but God is faithful. He has

carried us as we've followed Him, and I am extremely happy and optimistic about our future, to the extent that we stick together, and work together as a small part of a much bigger picture!

I hope you try to attend our twice-yearly "Family Reunion" congregational meetings. Many more reports were given in addition to mine. Questions are always welcome, and there was and always is, discussion.

And that's all I've got to say about that!

Walker



"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him"
2 Chronicles 16:9

Hey Keith, I have a question about... by Keith Peyton



Q. I was not able to attend the congregational Family Reunion meeting in

March. Can I still get a copy of the financial reports that were presented at that meeting?

A. Absolutely. I always keep extra copies of those reports in my office for just that reason, and would be happy to review them with you. Call me at the church office, 333-9659, so we can arrange a time to get together. Not every member is interested in the details of the church finances, so I try to only report the summary of the monthly giving and expenses in the bulletin. However, that doesn't mean the detailed reports are tightly

held secrets that only the church leaders get to review. Those reports are available for anyone to see if you are curious about how the church finances are handled. The only thing I ask is that you call me ahead of time to make sure I'm available. Although I do spend quit a few hours at my desk each week, that doesn't mean I'll be there if you just happen to stop by.

Q. Why can't I just get a copy to take home? Do I have to meet with you?

A. We don't have to meet for you to get a copy of the financial reports. I would be glad to leave them at the church office for you to pick up. The only reason I'm suggesting we meet is because you obviously have some questions, and I want to be sure we get them

answered correctly. Usually, this is what happens: church member "A" gets a financial report and takes it home to review; church member "A" has a question and talks with church member "B"; church member "B" doesn't know the answer so they both talk with church member "C" who probably doesn't know any more than "A" or "B." Since none of them know the answer, they start to speculate and guess. It happens more often than you may think, so it just may be more efficient to have your questions answered up front by the person most likely to have the answers.

*Serving Christ by
Serving His Church,
Keith*



5K Glow Run/Walk by Carla Clarke



Grab your kids, friends, and neighbors to help us light up the town of Warsaw, Virginia, with a 5K GLOW RUN/WALK! Let's take to the streets in all things bright and shiny as you are sure to have a great time. This year community agencies and organizations are coming together to benefit the Standing Rock Missions Team. Help us prepare to travel to South Dakota and share God's light with the children and families of Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

Come run or walk this race, and enjoy food, Christian

bands, UV paint, and a black-light tent that will keep you entertained throughout the night. This family-friendly event offers something for everyone. Even if you are not a runner, bring your lawn chair and relax on the Richmond County Fairground lawn and listen to music by numerous bands. This event is not timed, making it ideal for experienced runners, walkers, and first-time participants.

Entry Fees:

Youth (ages 18 and under): \$20

Adults: \$30

Virtual Participant: \$35 (includes shipping of race t-shirt)

Each participant receives a race-day t-shirt and glow items. Only those participants registered by Friday, May 4, are guaranteed a t-shirt with their registration. REGISTER EARLY! However, we will accept walk-ups the day of the race.

For more information regarding this year's event, search Facebook: RCofC Glow Run. Hope to see you at the starting line. Come Glow with Us!



*"But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."
1 John 3:17 & 18*



Mexico Mission Trip: Barbecue Lunch—April 15



The Mexico Mission Trip Team and Fred Paul are teaming up for a barbecue lunch on **Sunday, April 15**. Fred will be preparing the barbecue, and food will be available starting after the 1st service to either eat onsite or carry out.

Dinners are \$10 a plate. We are also taking orders for those individuals who want to purchase the barbecue by the pound. The price is \$10 per pound. We will be taking pre-orders for barbecue by the pound. Folks are encouraged

to place their orders by email (kent@rcofc.org) or call the church office (804-333-9659).

Love IN Action: A Ministry by Bridgett Landess

It is a pleasure and privilege to introduce Lisa Dyke as the new ministry team leader for our Coffee Corner! I am *sure* everyone knows, and will *agree* that we have the best Coffee Corner ever that serves hot coffee and wonderfully delicious baked goods every Sunday morning!

When you have a chance to meet Lisa, you will find that she has a genuine smile, welcoming spirit, and is quick to give you a hug. She's told me on more than one occasion how she loves to hug people - a lot! She has been wanting to share how excited she is to have been given this opportunity, and we thought it would be a great idea to share her thoughts with you in this article. Here is what she has to say;

"I want to reach out to everyone that has been a part of the Coffee Corner to let you know how grateful I am to be asked to join the journey of this wonderful ministry! I am so excited to be part of a ministry where we have the opportunity to

reach out and connect with everyone on Sunday mornings and make them feel welcomed here at RCofC - both those who have been coming for a long time and everyone new who comes to visit our church!

I love being part of a church that truly follows the word of God and is a place where He could reach out and touch me to lead me to serve Him in this ministry. This is so fulfilling to me in my life! I am also very thankful that the church family has given me this opportunity as well! After being asked to serve, I honestly was a bit nervous, but through careful thought and prayer, God gave the peace and assurance I needed to have to know that this responsibility and being a part of the RCofC church family is what He wants me to be doing and where He wants me to be at this time. I also truly believe that by living and loving in the Spirit of God everything can and does come together in your life!

I am currently working on a mission statement for the group, and want to welcome and encourage anyone to join the group, especially those who are looking to have FUN and can get excited about greeting and connecting with people on Sunday mornings!"

Please visit the Love IN Action table in the month of May where you will have the opportunity to explore more about this ministry group. Lisa will have the mission statement to share, provide you with information on the flexible commitment times that are available, go over any training that is required, and answer any questions you may have!

Feel free to contact Lisa or Bridgett at 804-439-0174 (Lisa), 804-727-9831 (Bridgett) blandess@excite.com. We will be happy to answer any further questions you may have and help you get connected right away! There are open opportunities that need commitments as early as this month and throughout the rest of the year!



Lisa Dyke



From the heart...



Dear Church Family,
Thank you all so much for the prayers, cards, and wonderful fruit and snack basket sent to me during my hospi-

tal stay. It all was greatly appreciated.

Love,
Joshua Baughan & Family

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."
Philippians 2:3-5



Deadline Reminder

Please submit your submissions for the May newsletter to ahbell@me.com by Friday, April 20.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Hebrews 13:8



Who Are You? by Penny Barton



Each year at Rappahannock Church of Christ we designate the month of May as “Who Are You?” month. It’s a chance for us to get to know each other a little better. With the continuing rapid growth of our congregation, it’s hard to keep up with new faces and the names that go along with them.

We will be asking that everyone wear a name tag (which we will supply) for the month of May whether you’ve been here 27 years or 4 weeks! If you at-

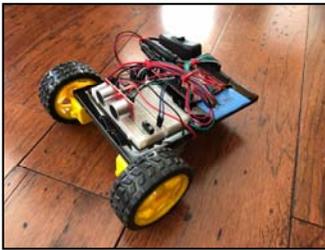
tend RCofC regularly (even if you are not a member yet) and have not filled out a Connect Card or given us your name and contact information, please be sure to do that during the month of April. We will be printing name tags for all adults and teenagers that are in our database. We won’t have your name in our database if you haven’t given it to us! (Kids will not get name tags because they get a name tag when they check into the kids’ programming.)

Also, if you have been at-

tending regularly since May 2017, we’d like to take your picture to use for a “Who Are You?” contest. If you are willing to let us take and use your picture, be on the lookout for a photographer—Pam Alderman or Penny Barton—during Coffee Corner in the month of April to snap a quick photo of you!

Thank you so much for considering being a part of this effort and for helping us get to know “Who You Are”!

It’s A Robot Uprising! by Chuck Bell



I am pleased to report the second semester of the Technology in the Bible class went very well. This semester we opened the class to adults, and several attended every class and enjoyed the Bible lessons and electronics experiments.

Last semester, the students built a working Simon game, and competed to see who could remember the longest sequence. This semester the

students built an autonomous robot that they raced to see which robot made it the farthest in a secret robot test course. There was also a contest for the best-looking robot! The winners of the robot contests will be announced next month.

But it wasn’t all tinkering in the class. Students learned some amazing facts about technology that exist in the Bible. We covered topics like

evolution, mathematics, geology, astrology, chemistry, biology, and even physics! There is a great deal about technology in the Bible and even more evidence in science that provides incontrovertible evidence that the Bible is indeed accurate and the word of God.

If you or your child would like to attend the class the next time it is offered, see Chuck Bell for details.

The Poison of Anger

Excerpt from *Hope for Each Day* by Billy Graham

“A fool gives full vent to his anger.”

Proverbs 29:11



Anger is one sin that everyone is capable of committing. The tiny baby has a tantrum and spits up her dinner. The little boy has a tantrum and ruins the family gathering. The wife loses her temper and wounds her child’s heart. The husband gets angry and terrifies his family. Homes can be destroyed by the swirling tornadoes of anger. Business relations can be shattered by

fits of violent temper. Friendships can be broken by anger.

Anger causes murders, assaults, and conflicts. Anger brings out the animal nature of human beings. It hinders our Christian testimony and causes people to lose the joy of living. Too many of us excuse our anger by blaming our natural disposition, but anger leads to sin.

The first step in finding victory over anger is to want to get rid of it. Next comes confession. Then comes a yielding to God. His Spirit can tame your tongue and your passions when you surrender your heart to Jesus. He who calmed the turbulent sea of Galilee can calm the tempestuous sea of your anger with His love.

Haiti Construction &
Loving Haiti One Child at a Time

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT 4 Man Captains Choice

\$240 per team
Closest to the Pin/
Longest Drive Contest
Saturday April 21, 2018
9:00am



100% Proceeds to Benefit Haiti

To sign up call:
804-443-4500

Hobbs Hole Golf Course
Tappahannock VA

This Year's Josh Baughan Ride-In



Caleb Johnson



Caleb and Ashley Johnson

This year's ride-in is scheduled for June 3 with a rain date of June 10. The recipient is Caleb Johnson from King George, Virginia, and the following story (and pictures) are taken from the family's web site at breakbatten.org.

The day Caleb was born was the most joyous day a mother can experience. He came into the world strong and healthy. He crawled, walked, and hit his milestones right on time. Then, things changed.

At three, we noticed Caleb's language wasn't progressing, and he became somewhat withdrawn, and hyper focused. Specialists determined that Caleb was on the autism spectrum. At

four, Caleb started having subtle uncontrollable seizures, and was diagnosed with epilepsy. As time passed, Caleb slowly began having trouble with articulation and motor planning. By age 5, he had lost a large portion of his vocabulary, and his motor skills were diminishing. Caleb had small time periods where

he seemed to be improving, but his progress never seemed to last.

Nevertheless, Caleb always found the strength to smile. Caleb was frequently assessed by doctors, which resulted in numerous hospitalizations and even surgery to help his seizures. The doctors attributed his loss of abilities to his intractable epilepsy.

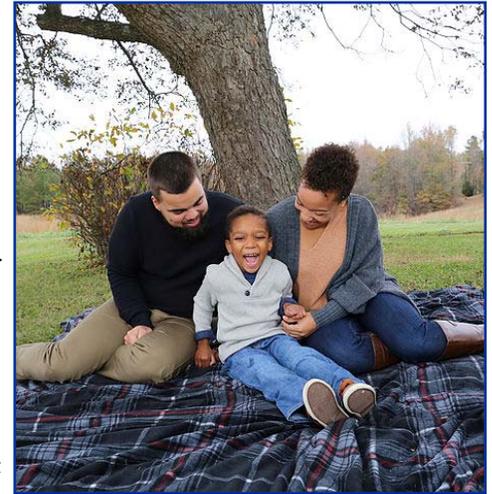
In September of 2017, Caleb was only a few months from his 6th birthday. Our family, and his community, were all celebrating more than 2 months

seizure free for Caleb. He seemed to be more alert and more excited than recent months. He was enjoying socializing and engaging in school activities. We were all hoping to see him regain a lot of his lost skills until we finally received a diagnosis. Genetic testing proved that Caleb had all along been suffering from late infantile variant Batten Disease (Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis). Suddenly, we were just wishing we didn't have the answers we had been so desperately seeking.

We found that Batten Disease is an extremely rare neurodegenerative disease that devastates children and their families. Children with Caleb's type of Batten are certain to lose their ability to see, walk, talk, and are left bedridden before an early death between 8 and 12 years old. We were told there are currently no treatments and no cure available for Batten.

We were determined to find some kind of treatment for Caleb, no matter the cost. After doing some research, we learned that gene therapy has shown positive results in other variants of this disease. This gene therapy has shown to be a hopeful treatment option to stop and even reverse neurodegenerative diseases.

This therapy is a relatively new type of research that targets the source of the problem: the broken genetic code. Everyone has broken codes, but for some, like



Travis Holman, Caleb Johnson, and Ashley Johnson

Caleb, the location of his broken code caused a demoralizing disease.

Luckily, we have an opportunity to team up with other hopeful families and an amazing team of scientists who are working on research and a clinical trial for Caleb's variant of batten RIGHT NOW! The trail, thus far, has been funded by families like ours raising money and generous donations. Caleb, along with two other children diagnosed with this disease, are working towards the common goal to fund the very first gene therapy trial for Caleb's type of Batten. The families goal is to continue searching and funding ways to find cures for Batten and other similar diseases.



*"Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise."
Jeremiah 17:14*

Grace and Peace by Jim Ward

I love the book of Proverbs. A proverb has been described as a lifetime of learning condensed into one sentence. When I was working as a counselor at Haynesville Correctional Center in 2004, I would put up scriptures on my office door (unusually a proverb). To keep the religious police and the politically correct elite at bay, I would never put up the scripture reference (my passive-aggressiveness at work, I guess).

Just so nobody would get “offended” by the Bible, I would write, “An old proverb says . . .” and then I would quote one of the verses from the book of Proverbs. Of course, all the inmates who were Christians or at least read the Bible knew what they were and would always make a comment about it. I would try and make the proverb directly applicable to what many of the inmates were dealing with at the time.

One such inmate was a man that was quite a character and very smart. I’ll call him Chris. Chris had several misdemeanors that had all equaled up to many years of jail time, but somehow, he had managed to talk the judges who had heard his cases into letting him off the charges. He conned one judge too many times, and that judge sentenced him to *all* charges including past charges, which

equaled to several years of felony prison time.

Chris was quite a con man. By the way, the term con man is not short for “convict.” The term con man is short for “confidence man.” A confidence man is skilled at developing trust (confidence) in an individual and then using that trust against that person for personal gain. Chris came to me one day and was telling me about another inmate that had taken some things from him—petty things—a pen here, a piece of paper there, a cigarette—things like that. This other inmate had also said some insulting things to Chris. These insults had really begun to get under Chris’ skin, and he came to me asking for advice. We talked for several minutes. He told me the situation explaining how insulted and incensed he felt and then asked this question, “What do I do when someone insults me like that?”

Well, I had the answer. In fact, I had probably just read the verse a few days before because it was fresh in my mind—Proverbs 12:16: **“A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.”** I read it to him. I told him that I thought he was a prudent man, but if he continued to hold on to his anger and insult, he would soon become foolish in the matter.

We discussed it further, and he agreed with the truth of the verse and said he would try and apply it to his life. And he did just that. Within a few days and several weeks following, his whole demeanor and attitude changed. He had applied this proverb to his entire way of thinking and things were turning around for him. It helped him understand at a higher level God’s love for us and how he overlooks our insults.

Just recently I found myself dealing with a similar difficult situation, but I wouldn’t let go of the hurt and insult. Once again, I came across this verse and remembered those conversations with Chris. It seemed Chris had an easier time of letting go of the insult, and I didn’t think that was fair. I finally came to my senses and accepted the lesson I had learned from the inmate—a prudent man overlooks an insult—even when it’s difficult to do.

I hope and pray that when you feel put upon, insulted, or offended, you will remember this verse from the book of Proverbs and overlook the insensitivity of others. It’s the wise thing to do.

Jim



“Fools make a mock at sin; but among the righteous there is favour.”
Proverbs 14:9



“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.”
Deuteronomy 7:9

The Deadliest American Hoax by Jim Ward

We have discovered that Dr. Bernard Nathanson was co-founder and architect of a plan to hood-wink, trick, dupe, and otherwise fool America into the moral and legal acceptance of abortion. But the story doesn't end there. Nathanson changed his views about abortion in 1973 when he watched the first ultrasound images of an abortion. Prior to viewing these images, Nathanson had overseen and performed thousands of abortions in the first few years after the elective procedure was legalized, and he had even performed an abortion on his girlfriend.

Nathanson claimed he had never felt emotional about the procedure. However, after using the ultrasound technology, Nathanson said he could see the fetus shrinking away from abortion tools, which he felt was an indication that the fetus could feel pain. In 1979 Nathanson published *Aborting America* with reporter and writer Richard Ostling, also of New York. In the book, Nathanson claims that he and other abortion-rights activists

had falsified statistics in their arguments for the repeal of the ban on abortions.

He then left the pro-abortion movement, and became a pro-life advocate. In 1985 Nathanson produced the film *The Silent Scream*, in which he narrates the process of an abortion as it is shown using ultrasound technology. The film was praised by US President Ronald Reagan, who suggested that if all members of Congress saw the film, fewer members would support abortion rights.

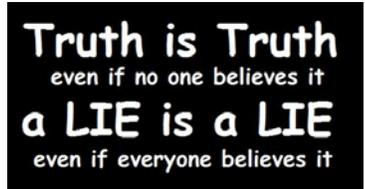
In 1987 Nathanson made the anti-abortion documentary *Eclipse of Reason*, which shows a late-term abortion in color video, as recorded through an endoscope. Later in life, Nathanson made another dramatic life change. He ended his beliefs of atheism, accepted Christ as Savior, and was baptized in 1996.

Nathanson continued to teach and practice obstetrics and gynecology until 2002. He died of cancer in New York City in February 2011 at the age of 84. Prior to his death,

he agreed to an interview with our own Terry Beatley where he charged her with the task of "continue teaching the strategy of how I deceived America."

As we discovered a few months ago, Terry is president and founder of Hosea Initiative, which is an educational organization dedicated to exposing "*The Deadliest American Hoax*." With all Nathanson's involvement and manipulation to make abortion legal and acceptable, he wasn't the source of the political movement to control pregnancy and the birthrate. That distinction belongs to Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood.

Nathanson's original views on abortion were born directly out of Sanger's views on eugenics and birth control. Next month you will be introduced to the driving force behind the "pro-choice" movement and Sanger's desire to slow the birthrate of racial and economic groups through birth control and abortion.



"An honest witness tells the truth, but a false witness tells lies."

Proverbs 12:17



"In this world you will have tribulations; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

John 16:33



A Few More Scenes

Excerpt from *Grace for the Moment* by Max Lucado

God has kept no secrets. He has told us that, while on this yellow brick road [of life], we will experience trouble. Disease will afflict bodies. Divorce will break hearts. Death will make widows and devastation will destroy countries. We should not expect any less. But just because the devil

shows up and cackles, we needn't panic.

Our Master speaks of an accomplished deed. "It is finished" (John 19:30). The battle is over. Be alert. But don't be alarmed...The manuscript has been published. The book has been bound. Satan is

loosed for a season, but the season is oh-so-brief. Just a few more scenes, just a few more turns in the road, and his end will come.

From When Christ Comes



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Mission Statement: Our mission and purpose as a congregation of believers is to lead people to Christ, by helping them to mature in their relationship in Him, teaching and enabling them to minister to others both inside and outside of the family of God, and providing opportunities to share and fellowship together that in all things we might bring glory to God.



Did You Know? by Jim Ward

The Holy Spirit is directly involved with salvation and evangelism. On the eve of his death, Jesus predicted that the Holy Spirit would soon begin his ministry of convicting the world of its sin. In John 16:7-8 we read, “But I tell you the truth: it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.”

The Holy Spirit’s message to sinners would be an explanation regarding sin and righteousness and a warning regarding judgment. His primary way of convicting sinners of sin is through the Scripture he has inspired. You see, Jesus told the apostles that they would soon receive revelation and inspiration from the Holy Spirit (John 14:26; 16:7, 13). So, the Holy Spirit commis-

sioned the apostles to publish the information they had received from him (John 15:26-27).

It is possible that the Holy Spirit supplements his ministry through the Word with a more subjective approach: man’s conscience. It may be that the Holy Spirit sometimes works to recharge the conscience of a sinner so that feelings of guilt will accompany the objective identification of sin by the Word. However, Scripture gives no clear reference to this type of activity. While it is possible that the Holy Spirit uses a sinner’s conscience while convicting him of sin, it is more probable that the Holy Spirit uses the accumulated knowledge a sinner has gained from scripture in the past to work on that sinner’s conscience.

And it is definite that the Holy Spirit uses scripture to convict the sinner. That puts

the burden directly on us to be channels through which the scripture flows. In other words, we are God’s mouth-piece. Each one of us is responsible for presenting the truth of the apostle’s testimony. God will not force an individual to accept him.

There are three aspects of evangelism: God’s Truth, our teaching, and the hearer’s decision. In this way, the Holy Spirit is involved with salvation and evangelism by convicting sinners of their sin through His word of which we are the mouth piece. There is still another aspect of the role of the Holy Spirit and that is his role in “sanctification”—a big, churchy sounding word that is very simple to understand—helping believers break sinful habits. We’ll talk about that next time.

Jim




“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.”
 John 15: 26 & 27