

But my servant Caleb,

because he has a different spirit and has followed me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land into which he went, and his descendants will inherit it. Numbers 14:24 (NRSV)

Caleb

WINTER 2007

REPORT

The Caleb Report is the quarterly newsletter of the SEND Ministries Department of Rosedale Mennonite Missions.



TO DO list
- Pack up Milk
- exercise
- buy pills

what

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Friday
6:30 @ Chipotle

HUGE

by:
Carmel Miller

Relief

What
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HUGE

~~Relief~~
Relief

If you combine unrealistic expectations with the need to control you will always get something that looks like stress, fear, resentment, anger, depression, anxiety, exhaustion, burnout, etc. as a result. We're often driven by a lust for achievement and approval—if we succeed, then perhaps our craving for admiration and respect will be satiated—maybe then we'll feel competent and confident. On a more personal level, we say: "I need to deal with my past, get a hold of my insecurity and people pleasing tendencies, get rid of this addiction that rules my life. I need to figure where I'm headed—school, career, dating relationship, marriage, kids. I ought to be a good steward of my money (avoid debt, give, invest), my body (diet and exercise is mandatory), the earth (reduce, reuse, recycle). I should read the Bible and pray more, develop more relationships with unbelievers, be more involved at church, serve more." We're ruled by the notion that we should stop being so lazy and be more productive. We act as if everything depends on us. And where is God in all of this? Good question! Where IS God in all this madness? We're not sure, but I bet if you give us a second, we'll be able to figure Him out.

STOP! Yeah, I mean YOU! STOP IT!!! Stop your multitasking for a few minutes, take a few deep breaths, and really consider: Where is God in the madness of what I call life? Coming up blank? Don't be discouraged—He IS there. Here are a few suggestions that will help you quiet down and reconnect with the One who brings true meaning to life.

#1
Ask God to
increase your
awareness of
His presence.

1. Ask God to increase your awareness of His Presence.

God is like water. The thing about water is that it's so basic. Our bodies are approximately 65% water, and plants are 90% water. On the larger scale, 75% of the earth is covered with water and it's a unique factor specific to earth's atmosphere. Water is all around us, it's in us. We consume it continuously, and yet most of the time we're unaware of

its presence and impact. This reminds me of Paul's words in Acts 17 where he says: "in Him we live and move and have our being." This verse seems to be saying that we (believers and nonbelievers alike according to the context) literally cannot do anything apart from God's presence, that He is as essential to our living, doing and being as water is to our physical bodies. He's everywhere, a part of everything, and we can't live without Him. The beauty is that He transcends our awareness—He's alive and active whether we realize it or not. What a huge relief!

Here's a simple application: Ask God to remind you of His presence with you, in you and around you every time you come into contact with water (bathing, drinking, driving in rain, etc.).

2

Ask God for
Favor.

2. Ask God for favor.

Noah and company must have had favor with all those animals in the ark or else the floating zoo would have gone berserk. Rachel found favor with Jacob's servant and ended up...married...fourteen years later. In his early life, Moses lived in Pharaoh's favor as a Prince of Egypt. Baby Jesus lived in Mary and Joseph's favor—they

accepted him as their own child even though he was the Son of God and put their reputations on the line. The biblical examples of God's favor resting on His people are endless.

Asking for favor and walking in it is like reading the instruction manual in order to assemble the new entertainment center. It's trusting that whoever designed this piece of furniture in the first place knows how it all fits together and is willing to let you in on the plan—you don't have to force anything. Favor takes the pressure off of you and your frantic human effort and puts the responsibility back on God, His benevolence and providence working in and around your life.

You should know that asking for favor ISN'T about you instantly having the million dollar life of your dreams—in fact, your life may still seem like it's going down the tubes. Check out Joseph's example—dysfunctional family, sold as a slave, reputation damaged irreparably, jail time. But in the midst of all those extremely difficult circumstances, Joseph enjoyed God's favor in many of his relationships with his superiors, from Potiphar to the jailers to Pharaoh. Tough times are simply a reality of life, perhaps even more so for us as believers. But as we choose to walk in God's favor, we'll be reminded that He really is in control, that we're not down on our own trying to force the pieces of our lives together. And that, my friend, is a huge relief!

3. Ask God to reorient your perspective.

One way God reorients our perspective is by revealing Himself through His Word. A couple weeks ago during my women's Bible study, we were discussing Mark 1 and how John the Baptizer was out in the desert prophesying Jesus' arrival. One lady pointed out that a desert

is pretty much a wide open space and it reminded her of creation, of how God had all this nothingness, this open space, to work with and spoke everything into being. It struck me that the desert places in our lives (the loneliness, the endless search for a job, the difficult relationship(s), etc.) give God plenty of room to create something out of nothing. We do our best to make something out of cacti, roadrunners, and tumbleweeds, or sometimes we've become so comfortable with the desert parts of our lives that we aren't seeking an oasis. But what a relief that our creating God isn't limited by our piddly vision and meager resources. You'll know it is God changing your perspective if and when you begin viewing stuff like deserts as opportunities to be embraced rather than a cause for despair.

In conclusion, I challenge you: If you've gotten stuck in spiritual workaholicism and

self reliance, in trying to figure everything out on your own, repent. It's that easy. Ask God for a new revelation of Jesus. And as He reveals Himself to you, may you find yourself relaxing in His presence, knowing that He is for you, in you, He surrounds you. That this is His story, not yours. He's got the leading role, He's in the spotlight. And you, my friend, are invited to make your home in the Shadow of the Almighty, on stage but behind the scenes. What a huge relief.

3

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ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

MARRIAGES

Rebekah Schultz (R 02) married Jacob Siefert on July 7, 2007.

Sarah Mast (R 02, 05) married Zach Garber on August 12, 2007.

Crystal Dornburg (R 02) married Daniel DiGiacomo on October 20, 2007

Brandon Troyer (R 05) & Monica Miller (R 05) were married on September 29, 2007.

BIRTHS

Keith & Melissa (Moon, R 98) Haarer had a baby girl, Keira Noelle, on August 2, 2007.

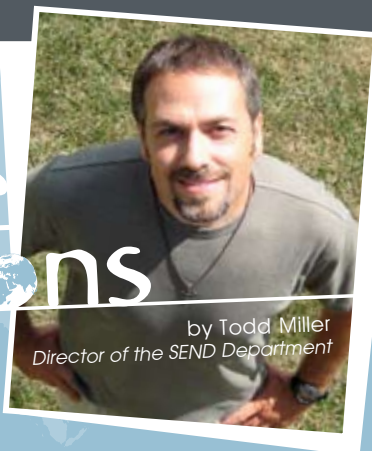
Jeff & Ruth (Yoder, R 97) Ebersole had a baby girl, Christiana Sue, on March 7, 2007.

Robert (R 03) & Jessica (DiGennaro, R 98, 00) Satterfield had a baby girl, Saffron Sky, on October 9, 2007.

Aram (R 98 S 01) & Debbie DiGennaro had a baby boy, Shadrach Stephen, on September 30, 2007.

Kevin & Kristin Bucher (R 99) had a baby girl, Malia Rose, on October 14, 2007.

God Made us for Missions



by Todd Miller
Director of the SEND Department

Did you know that our English word for *mission* comes from the Latin word for "sending"? Being a Christian means that you are sent into the world as an ambassador of Jesus Christ. In John 20:21, Jesus said, ***"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."***

2 Cor. 5:17-20 says "... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation ... And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us." Webster's definition of an ambassador is: "The highest-ranking diplomatic representative appointed by one country or government to represent it in another." That is an awesome definition of a Christian! This world is not our home, but we do have a purpose for being here. We have been chosen by Christ, commissioned, and sent as His ambassadors to the world to continue the mission He began.

Then Jesus came to them and said, ***"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."***
Matt. 28:18-20

In Rick Warren's book *The Purpose Driven Life*, he puts it this way: "This commission was given to every follower of Jesus, not to pastors and missionaries alone. This is your commission from Jesus, and it is not optional. These words of Jesus are not the Great Suggestion. If you are part of God's family, your mission is mandatory. To ignore it would be disobedience. You may have been unaware that God holds you responsible for the unbelievers who live around you. The Bible says, 'You must warn them so they may live. If you don't speak out to warn the wicked to stop their evil ways, they will die in their sin. But I will hold you responsible for their death.' You are the only Christian some people will ever know, and your mission is to share Jesus with them."

For me... this means that I need to get out of the office and Discipleship Training Center and be intentional about building relationships with people that need to hear the good news. It means that I am going to look for opportunities to represent Jesus. It means stepping out of my comfortable, self-centered life.

How does being sent as an ambassador of Jesus Christ affect your life?



The SEND Ministries Department exists to equip and motivate youth to be Christ-centered, world Christians who make disciples.

www.send-me.org