

The eNewsletter of Providence Bible Church

August 2007

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Dear Jason,

Thank you for subscribing to "Touches of Providence," the enewsletter of Providence Bible Church. We look forward to keeping you posted as to how God and others touch our lives as well as the opportunities we have to touch others.



We are already experiencing wonderful blessings from the hand of the Lord. We hope you are encouraged by the work He is birthing in the heart of the city!

Jason and Jennifer Janz

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Trust Amidst Life's Travels



Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

If you're like me, you have heard these verses in church since the elderly woman was holding you in a rocking chair in the nursery. That can be a problem. "Old" truths can become commonplace, trite, and part of Christian cliché. However, these truths have pierced me as a 34-year-old pastor. Let me explain. The verse starts out by saying "trust in the LORD with all thine heart." What does it mean to trust in the Lord? D.A. Carson says, "*Trust* and *lean* both suggest the physical experience of supporting yourself on something or

someone in total and helpless reliance and commitment." In Warren Wiersbe's book, *Be Skillful*, he defines it as "to lie helpless, facedown." This term carries with it the picture of a defeated soldier yielding himself to the conquering general. In other words, trust is not something you add to your own ability, it replaces your ability and your strength.

We have a problem though. We were born trusting in our own understanding. Trusting in God is as foreign to humans as it would be for a fish to try and live on land. The fish panics because he is out of his natural environment and will not survive long. We tend to think the same way about trusting in Someone besides ourself. The natural state of our humanity pulls us to self-reliance. One commentator said, "Do not seek to be independent of God." I don't think he understands the human heart. We do not seek to be independent of God; it is the natural pull of the human heart. The problem with human wisdom though is that it makes sense to humans. It's logical. It has proven to be true in many circumstances. It's why the Church Growth Movement is lethal. It makes total sense when you hear it, but that is not how God works.

many good Christians regularly dispense this type of wisdom. On deputation, we have received much advice on how to raise money from those who have done it. However, it is usually a story about what worked or did not work for them. When they are finished, I find myself trusting leaning towards trying their method or plan. And believe me, when you are trying to raise support, you will take any plan that sounds like it will work! When under pressure, you start coming up with alternative plans. We usually term them something like "Plan B" and "Plan C." However, when you study how God works, you begin to realize that His ways often do not make sense. He delights in turning "Plan B's" into disasters. His ways usually do not seem logical to human minds. Just read the Sermon on the Mount. Christ's words turn earthly wisdom on its head.

I believe we depend on human wisdom more than we know. The Bible talks of even the great men in Scripture who relied on their human understanding. Abraham did when he went down to Egypt during the famine (Gen. 12). Joshua trusted in common sense when he attacked Ai (Josh. 7). David relied on his wisdom in numbering the people (I Chron 21). If you read all of these stories, you are hit with the obvious - all of their decisions made sense! But none of them were doing what God wanted. When it comes to finances, rearing of children, and employment choices, human wisdom is as close as the remote control. When it comes to church, I'm afraid many church leadership meetings are packed with our own understanding. Budget talks can be rife with human wisdom. This is not just a mistake. It is Christian treason. We are throwing our allegiance to the wrong side. You might say, "Doesn't God give us wisdom and common sense?" Yes, trusting in God is not checking our brains at the door, but it's a matter of where our trust lies.

So how can you tell where your trust lies in Christian decision-making? One tangible way to gauge our trust level is to simply examine our prayer life. The very act of a prayer is a declaration of the fact that our trust is elsewhere. Prayer admits that we need Someone greater than ourselves. Prayer aligns the heart and calms the soul as it submits to the power and wisdom of God. In your private life, how much time is devoted to prayer? In church services or leadership meetings, is prayer viewed as simply the "nod to God" at the beginning of the meeting or does it take up a good portion of the time? Another way to measure your trust factor is to take stock of how much you complain. I have been convicted about my complaining spirit. This month has been almost the exact opposite of last month. Most of our family got sick. I got our van stuck at a Bible camp and when they towed it out, a large rock underneath the van (unseen by us) bent the drive shaft and tore up the muffler. Love offerings did not cover our expenses. Our sprinkler system at home broke while we were gone, causing flooding at my neighbors. Travel began taking its toll on all of us. I vented often. Mostly to God, then my wife. However, reading a book by the Puritan John Flavel on the providence of God, sent me reeling and repenting. He talks about when we get to

problems. He says, "All the dark, intricate, puzzling providences at which we were sometimes so offended, and sometimes amazed, which we could neither reconcile with the promise nor with each other, nay, which we so unjustly censured and bitterly bewailed, as if they had fallen out quite against our happiness, we shall then see to be to us, as the difficult passage through the wilderness was to Israel, 'the right way to the city of habitation' (Ps. 107:7)." There is no need to complain when we trust that everything in our life comes from the hand of God and is designed for our good.

So, how has God been teaching me to lean on His wisdom? The first way is to deal with the fact that I have an idea of how the church is going to come about and yet God probably has a completely different plan. I need to follow His Providence, not force my timeline. I must listen, pray, and trust and then watch Him work. Second, I need to pray more. Prayer has a way of getting my idolatrous heart to bow before Someone greater. I am prone to wonder. I am prone to trust in the flesh. The very act of prayer is self-crucifying. Third, I must realize that His plan in building a great church starts with building great lives, not with a nice prospectus. How does He build great men and women? Usually through suffering and pain. I have to realize He is far more concerned right now about putting steel in the backbone of my wife and I than He is about what Providence Bible Church is going to look like.

Our wisdom doesn't work because it's not how God works. God delights in turning human wisdom on its ear and seeing the glory go to Him. God gets glory when 5,000 are fed from a small loaf of bread and some fish. He is praised when three hundred men put an army of thousands to flight. He is exalted when a monotone sermon sparks a Great Awakening. God's ways are different than our ways. His wisdom and knowledge is far deeper than human wisdom. His ways are past finding out. We are learning to trust in Him. He promises to direct our paths. And we are experiencing that it is often down different roads and to different places than we would normally travel.

Happy Trails

Perhaps the question we get asked the most is how our travels are going. So, in this article, we'd like to give you brief glimpses on this wonderful journey in the big red van with the car-back carrier!



Pinedale, WY

Our family started our second trip by spending a couple of days at Red Cliff Bible Camp. Every year they operate a camp on a free-will love offering basis called "Camp Meeting." Bob Jones III and his wife were the keynote speakers joined by Dan Hadick and Chuck Crabtree. I had a great time catching up with Brother Crabtree. He was an assistant pastor at South Sheridan Baptist Church for twenty-two years. I sat with him for two hours one night and just drew stories out of him and pilloried him with questions. Dean and Lori Loftus have successfully directed this camp over the past fifteen years. They fit perfectly into the role that God has for them. It's one of the only teen camps I know that lets eight-year-old kids rappell off of 150-foot cliffs! Go Hannah Wood!



Idaho Falls, ID

We crashed in Idaho Falls on Saturday evening and had dinner with Todd and Christy Wood and their family. They came as church planters to Mormon country ten years ago and, by God's grace, have built a healthy work. The church people have built a beautiful building on the outskirts of town. Todd is a writer for SharperIron and is probably one of the most well-loved guys on the blog. He comes across in his writing as a widely-read, deeply thought-out man. However, when you spend time with him one-on-one, you find out that he is part redneck! A true renaissance man! However, from my observation, Todd is in his groove when he is preaching and leading his local flock at Berean Baptist Church. And when he is trying to apply Gospel truth to Mormon visitors on his blog - [Heart Issues](http://HeartIssues.org). Our time with them was sweet!



Ashton, ID

On Sunday evening, July 8th, we drove up to have an evening service with Berean Baptist Church pastored by Chris Leavell. Chris came a couple of years ago after getting his degree. He spent time at Northland Baptist Bible College, Faith Baptist Bible College, and International Baptist College. So, he's a pretty well-rounded Baptist. At least he better be! Ashton is a town with a population of 1200 people that is 80% Mormon. Chris and Michele are an absolute fit for that area. They



love their town, their

ministry, and their life in Ashton. Their quaint home, bordered by a horse pasture, looks out on the Grand Teton range. Chris loves to hunt, fish, and snowmobile. He's a man's man! But put him in a boat where he can't see what's underneath him and that lumberjack turns pale white! Michele was a treat. We are both children of the 80's and talked about our past lives addicted to Joe Eliot and Def Leppard. It's good to know some other young people survived that stuff and still came out loving God. We enjoyed eating at Big Jud's - the big diner in town where you can order a Big Jud burger. Hudson tried to eat it, but couldn't quite do it. This is also where we were introduced to the Idahoan culture of "tots" and "fries sauce." Who needs catsup?



Rigby, ID

On Wednesday evening, we rolled into Bethel Baptist Church in Rigby, Idaho. Jason Ehmann, son of legendary church planter, Ron Ehmann, became the pastor one year ago. Jason Ehmann was a summer intern with us at South Sheridan back about five or six years ago. While he was out, I scoured the shelves of his library to see what he's been reading. He's in good hands. The congregation just completed a brand new building and saw God provide in wonderful ways. A gracious man afterwards took us out to Wendy's and filled our gas tank which is no small amount with gas prices these days.

Meridian, ID

Jeff Estes is the pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church just outside of Boise, ID. His co-pastor and next-door-neighbor is Chris Best. Chris was out of town and our family was able to stay in their home for several days. Jeff and I met while I was in college and together we launched the Rocky Mountain Youth Conference in 1997. So, it was a joy to meet up again and see his church plant, which is now five years old, growing and thriving. Jeff and his wife Nora were a personal blessing to us as we were able to spend time sharing life together. At his church on Sunday, I was able to experience why they call the church Fellowship Baptist Church - those people fellowship a long time after church!



Anacortes, WA

We headed up to the northeast to be with some friends and to meet Tom Anacortes and his wife. They planted Cornerstone Baptist several months ago in this town just off the coast of northern Washington. We spent Wednesday evening in their home with several families of the church and had dinner at a good Thai restaurant. While in the area, we visited some friends - Mark and Pauli Howe and Andy and Wendy Alsop.



Fremont, CA



Heading down through the Redwood National Park, we ended up in the suburbs of San Francisco at the Berean Baptist Church with Tom and Martha Pryde. Tom and I have been internet friends for quite some time, but this was only the second time we were able to meet in person. Their hospitality was a



blessing and we enjoyed celebrating their daughter's birthday at Claim Jumper while we were there. Tom even was smooth enough to get me to try sushi for only the third time in my life. It was some kind of raw tuna. Tom has a way of getting you to do stuff you would normally never do.

San Luis Obispo, CA



Randall Shanks has been at Calvary Baptist in San Luis Obispo for just about a year. He and his wife and eight kids live in the parsonage behind the church. Their seven boys and our four



boys tore up the countryside for a few days with water fights and fort-building. Randall is the only pastor I know in the nation who has his own personal limousine! He bought it on Ebay for a great price and it helps transport his large family. Their family was a blessing to my wife and I as they watched the kids so we could get away for our 11th wedding anniversary.

Simi Valley, CA

Roger and Cathy Willis came to plant a church in Simi Valley twenty-seven years ago and have stayed. Their church gave us a warm reception and took an interest in our work. That evening, we had a potluck dinner with them. Roger has a unique way of letting his people know that it's time for Sunday School. In the picture, you can see him tooting his horn!



A highlight of the week for the kids was going to Disneyland. A lady at our home church gave us money to take them. They loved it and we loved watching them love it.



A highlight for Jen and I was going to visit the Dream Center. Tommy Barnett, Jr. started the work about ten years ago and wrote the book entitled, "The Church That Never Sleeps." And it's true. The ministry going on there is unbelievable! While I don't agree with their theology, their passion to make a difference in the city was challenging and encouraging.

Happy Trails!!!

Praises

1. Someone answered our request to publish and send our newsletter through the mail.
2. Our financial needs have been met for another month.
3. Three individuals have contacted us interested in being part of our core team.
4. We now have 380 prayer partners, almost half of what we've been praying for.
5. The van we are traveling in has been a wonderful blessing to us. Missionaries Matt and Sheri Winkler have loaned it to us. We are most grateful.

Prayer Requests

1. We are having an informational meeting about our church on September 16th in downtown Denver. The meeting will be from 5-8pm. Additional details will be on our website as the date approaches. We will be having a dinner and I will be giving the vision for the ministry. We are endeavoring to connect with those who have voiced an interest in coming with us. Individuals from all around the metro area have talked with us. Pray that God will guide and direct in the meeting and that those He wants to join the core group will do so as we prepare for our core group meetings in January.
2. Pray for the increase in our support - additional prayer partners, monthly financial supporters, more local church meetings, and more people to commit to being part of our Core Launch Team.
3. We are committed to having a multi-ethnic ministry. Pray for God to lead Hispanic, Asian, and African-American people to us who could become part of our Core Launch Team. I have been able to talk with two families who could play a key role in this area.
4. Pray for God to burden another man who is qualified to be an elder to help lead this ministry. With the church plant, I am looking to share the teaching load with another man who is a gifted communicator, a mature believer, and has theological training. I have talked with three men in the past couple of months. Pray that God leads the right person to us.

Specific Needs

1. As we launch our recovery ministry, we are seeking start-up funds. We will be operating a faith-based recovery ministry on Friday nights that helps people with all types of addictions. Jen and I were the directors of this program for the last three-and-a-half years at our home church. God has led Jerry and Martha Groskopf who worked with us at Red Rocks to come and be the directors of this downtown ministry.

Our costs are:

- Facility rental - \$200 per night/\$10,400 for the entire first year
- Cell phone - \$50 per month/\$600 per year, \$250 to pay for a vanity phone number
- Materials - \$2000 for Bibles, curriculum, signs, books, brochures, and videos
- Marketing - \$10,000 to get our name out into the community. This would include brochures, mailings, radio ads, and a website.

If you could help us with part or all of the above costs, please send your donations to Providence Bible Church and earmark it "Changed Life Start-Up".

Partnership Update

We are on a one-year journey to form ministry partnerships with individuals and churches across America. If God burdens your heart to help with this ministry, click [here](#) to sign up to be a partner. On this website, we will provide monthly updates as to the status of our ministry goals.

Prayer Partners

Goal: 1000

Total as of August 1: 380

Start-Up Funds

Goal: \$470,000

Given as of August 1: \$39,473

Financial Partners

Partner Churches Goal: 20 churches

Partner Churches as of August 1: 3

Monthly Individual Supporters Goal: 40 individuals

Monthly Individual Supporters Actual: 3

Core Launch Team

Goal: 50 adults

Total as of August 1: 10

Local Church Meetings

Goal: 50 meetings in 2007-08

Completed: 18

Scheduled: 8

If you would like to become a partner in one of these areas, go to our website at www.providencedenver.org and sign up.



All the finances of Providence Bible Church are handled by a CPA. All financial decisions are handled by the church board. I am not a signer on the church checking account, nor do I have access to any funds. Our desire is to be fully accountable in this area. All gifts are tax-deductible and receipts will be issued at the end of the year.

Jason Janz

Itinerary



Kids watching DVD to pass travel time

August

- 1** PM Service at Hope Community Bible in Northridge, CA/Pastor Scott Leigh
- 5** AM Service at Westpointe Baptist in Litchfield Park, AZ/Pastor Dick Mercado, Jr.
PM Service at Hope Baptist in Surprise, AZ/Pastor Duane Braswell
- 12** AM and PM Service at Southeast Valley Baptist in Phoenix, AZ/Pastor Joel Tetreau
- 15** PM Service at First Baptist in Alamogordo, NM/Pastor Ron Tyson

19 PM Service at Canyon Creek Baptist in Dallas, TX/Pastor Rick Carter

22 Abilene, KS

23 Home Sweet Home!!!

Launch Timeline

2007

June-August

Support trip throughout the U.S.

September-December

Recovery Ministry planning

Monthly Informational Meetings begin

Recovery Ministry begins

Continued raising of support

2008

January

Weekly Core Meetings begin on Sunday evenings

Core Launch Team goes to Boot Camp

March

Community Bible Studies begin

June

Missions Trip for Partner Churches

Preview Services begin

July

Missions Trip for Partner Churches

Small Groups launch

Missions Trip for Partner Churches

2nd Preview Service

August

Missions Trip for Partner Churches

3rd Preview Service

September

Grand Opening Month

*Timeline is subject to change on a regular basis:)

Traveling With Kids: Some Great Similarities

After putting 6,000 miles on these tires, you begin to see some patterns in your children when you travel. Here are some things my wife and I came up with. (The photo to the right is Dad trying to hold it together in the teacups at Disneyland.)



1. You have to say the same things over and over again. Get used to repeating the rules of the journey.
2. They constantly talk about the destination but don't enjoy the journey. "Are we there yet?"
3. After you take them to a real fun place, they wake up the next day wanting another one. It's like they forgot what took place yesterday. As a parent, you feel that they are almost constantly ungrateful.
4. Their little love tanks are never full no matter how much time you spend with them.
5. As much as you tell them about the nature of self-less ministry, it's hard to get their minds off of themselves.
6. You constantly have to remind them of how to act in public.
7. They spend most of their discretionary mental energy thinking about the next fun event.
8. The lighter you travel, the better. You tend to pick up extra things along the way.
9. Silence is golden. Getting them to be still and quiet is half the battle.
10. They have no concept of time.
11. We do most of the work. The children think they do, but they don't.
12. They don't understand the cost of the mission. Not even close.
13. They do not understand the significance of the gifts we receive

14. When they obey, there is no greater joy as a parent!

15. You love to see them joyful.

and is it any wonder why God calls us His children?

*We are not trying to pick on our children. By God's grace, two are believers and two are still just as pagan as the day they were born. Regardless, they are precious gifts from the Lord and we thank Him for them.

Kid's Corner

We have four boys - Hudson (8), Champlin (6), Paton (4), and Spurgeon (1). They have an active part in our ministry by doing a reading on the Good Shepherd in the churches we are at. Also, they have learned to run the book table and the Prayer Partner sign-up. July was a month of fun for them. Here are just some highlights!

Wanna get your picture taken with Goofy or Mickey? Nope. Not as bad as Captain Jack Sparrow!!!



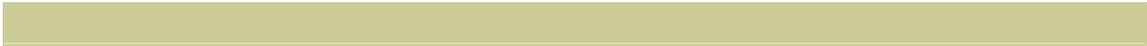


Spurgeon begins the long, joyful road to a healthy Starbucks addiction!



Spurgeon before and after an ocean wave hits him for the first time!





To all of our prayer partners, please send us your prayer requests: My wife and I are committed to praying for the individual requests of all of our prayer partners. Please send your name and requests to jasonjanz@providencedenver.org.

Sincerely,

Jason Janz
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