

The eNewsletter of Providence Bible Church

July 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

Dependent on God Alone

Hudson Taylor tells a story that has convicted me lately. While this young man was preparing to go to China as a missionary, he went to take a course in medicine at the London Hospital. His father volunteered to cover his living expenses while he was there and so did his mission board, the Chinese Evangelisation Society. He informed both parties of the dual offers and asked if he could have some time to pray about it.

both offers. He wrote a letter to each one of them knowing that they would assume that the other party picked up the tab. Taylor then writes in his journal, *"I was simply in the hands of God, and that He who knew my heart, if He wished to encourage me to go to China, would bless my effort to depend on Him alone at home."* Now, that's dependence! Trust is perhaps one of the most unnatural things for humans to do. Ever since we were born, we were subconsciously trained to trust in our own strength. Webster's defines "dependence" as "relying on another for support." For a missionary, when we hear the word "support," pictures of individuals and churches can pop into our head. In fact, isn't that what deputation is? Raising support from those who have for those who have not? In a subtle way, even missionaries are prone to get their eyes off of whom the "another" is referring to in the definition.

You would think that a pastor wouldn't struggle with dependence upon God, but I do. Every day. We were sent out by our home church on May 20th to embark on the road to start a ministry in downtown Denver. I didn't realize how dependent I had become upon other means besides God Himself. Let me explain. For eleven years, I received a paycheck every two weeks without fail. While many would say this isn't a bad thing, I now see where, subtly over time, I ended up trusting my employer to come through for me. In fact, when I received the check, I did not utter a prayer of thanks to the Lord. I just made sure that it was the right amount and checked to make sure the withholdings were accurate. My, how things have changed! While our new ministry has incorporated and they have set me up to receive a paycheck, it's my job to raise my own income! I might as well place a cardboard sign in the back of our van, "Will preach for food!" So when I receive a paycheck now, my mind goes back and re-lives how our family saw first-hand how God provided for every dollar.



However, dependence is something that has to be re-learned on a regular basis. It's easy to fall into the Christian trap of thinking "I've already learned that lesson." If we had a true grasp of our own fleshly nature though, we would realize that every lesson learned often has to be learned countless times. Dependence upon God is one of those lessons that one never fully grasps once and for all. It must become a daily focus. We are prone to trust in other things - often several times a day. The Bible gives us many warnings about misplaced trust. We can trust in money (I Tim. 6:17). Idols (Isaiah 42:17). Our own righteousness (Luke 18:12). Personal Strength (I Sam. 17:43-45). Isaiah chides the people of Israel because they always seemed to cast their dependence

to Egypt for help, *And* rely on horses, Who trust in chariots because *they are* many, And in horsemen because they are very strong, But who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, Nor seek the LORD!" It's so easy in American to trust in medical care, insurance policies, employment, technology and people. In church work, it's easy to rely on buildings, budgets and programs. However, trusting in such things only results in misery. In God's eyes, the most miserable way to live is to trust in something besides Him for our everything. I like what missionary Joy Ridderhof once said, "Friends are saying to me, 'What are people who are living by faith going to do when money gets tight and depression comes?' The thought came to me that the real question is, 'What are people who are not living by faith going to do?'" To put your trust in false deliverers will only lead to despair. We must daily ask ourselves the question, "Who am I depending on?"

The blessings of a God-dependent life are many. When we live every day as if our every breath came from the Lord, it causes the believer to rest under the good hand of God. Isaiah 26:3 talks of the peace that comes from a dependent life "You will keep *him* in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." Peace under pressure is supernatural. It's a gift of God's grace. While financial "insecurity" would tend to be overwhelming for us, our family has watched God provide for us financially in some wonderful ways over the past month. An individual paid for a weekend getaway with our family before we left on deputation. Our home church took up a gracious love offering for us. People have slipped us cash as we walk through church foyers. A relative sent us a check out of the blue. An unemployed man wrote a check that matched the largest gift we've received from any church or individual donor. Psalm 5:11 has proven to be true "But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them." The stability that comes from God-dependence is far greater than any regular paycheck can provide. Dependence on God, learned every day, slowly begins to build an unwavering trust that causes believers to do great things through Christ.

I'm not sure I'm a stronger Christian (whatever that means) than I was a month ago. In fact, I really feel weak. However, weak people have some distinct advantages. They are completely aware that they need to look outside themselves for strength. And not to Egypt. Not to donors. Not to churches. But to God alone.

Praises

1. For God's providential call on our lives to start a ministry in downtown Denver.
2. Safety - We had two close calls while traveling on the road.
3. Financial generosity - The love offerings that have been given to our ministry have been greater than what we budgeted.
4. For an overwhelming response to our plea for 1,000 Prayer Partners. With only "having our doors open" for one month, we have had 244 people commit to partnering with us in this way. These people are the backbone of our ministry.
5. In all of our travels, we've only lost one shoe!



Prayer Requests

1. Pray that our family would have ministry opportunities with the church members in each church that we minister in.
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. Pray for divine guidance and wisdom in the starting of Changed Life Addiction Recovery Ministry downtown. We plan on launching this ministry in October/November.
4. 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.
5. 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.



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

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".

2. We need a volunteer who would be willing to take our prayer letter and convert it into a printable document (Microsoft Publisher has some easy-to-use templates) so that we can mail these out to our Prayer Partners who do not have email. Currently, we have forty individuals who would need the letter in this format. We will cover all costs associated with mailing and printing. If you can do this, please contact me at jasonjanz@providencedenver.org.

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 July 1: 244

Start-Up Funds

Goal: \$470,000

Committed as of July 1: \$54,000

Given as of July 1: \$27,000

Financial Partners

Partner Churches Goal: 20 churches

Partner Churches as of July 1: 2

Monthly Individual Supporters Goal: 40 individuals

Monthly Individual Supporters Actual: 2

Core Launch Team

Goal: 50 adults

Total as of July 1: 8

Local Church Meetings

Goal: 50 meetings in 2007-08

Completed: 9

Scheduled: 10



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.

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. Here is their take on the first leg of our deputation tour...unedited!

What have you liked best about our trips so far?

H: Sinking in the mud at Grandpa's house. I sunk like crazy all the way up to my armpits.

C: I don't like traveling.

What have you liked least about our trip so far?

H: Getting the mud washed off with a cold hose

C: I didn't like traveling in the car. It's so boring. I got a little sick.



What do you like about doing the Good Shepherd reading?

H: It tells other people that they should know Christ and it tells them that the Good Shepherd comforts them.

C: It tells other people about understanding God. We tell people about Jesus, they'll worship Him and then He'll feel better.

P: I don't like doing it, because everyone laughs at me.

Would you rather be here (on the road) or at home?

H: Here. Because it's a little bit more fun and you can catch lizards. It's just fun.

P: At our home. Because I just love my room so much.

Itinerary



Actual sign at a gas stop in Wyoming

July

- 4-7** Red Cliff Bible Camp
- 8** AM Service at Berean Baptist Church in Idaho Falls, ID/Pastor Todd Wood
PM Service at Berean Baptist Church in Ashton, ID/Pastor Chris Leavell
- 11** PM Service at Bethel Baptist Church in Rigby, ID/Pastor Jason Ehmann
- 15** AM and PM Service at Fellowship Baptist Church in Boise, ID/Pastor Jeff Estes
- 18** PM Service at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Anacortes, WA/Pastor Tom Parr
- 22** AM Service at Berean Baptist Church in Fremont, CA/Pastor Tom Pryde
- 24-26** Sacramento, CA area
- 29** AM Service at Lighthouse Bible Church in Simi Valley, CA/Pastor Roger Willis

August

- 1** PM Service at Hope Community Bible in Northridge, CA/Pastor Scott Leigh
- 5** AM and PM Service at Westpointe Baptist Church in Litchfield Park, AZ/Pastor Dick Mercado, Jr.
- 12** AM Service at SE Valley Baptist Church in Phoenix, AZ/Pastor Joel Tetreau
- 13-22** New Mexico and Texas



Spurgeon is ready to roll for July!!!

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!



Sellersville, PA

Our first stop was at Faith Baptist Church in Sellersville, PA with Pastor Paul Auckland. Paul has been a friend for several years and was the first guy to really open my eyes to Christian liberty through clear Bible exposition. It changed my life. The second time he changed my life was a phone conversation several months ago where he explained to me that he wasn't just interested in writing a check to another missionary, but that he was looking for the relationships which would turn into partnerships. I thought to myself, "Partnerships? That sure sounds better than going around asking people for money! And it fits Jen and I!" Up until that day, I had dreaded this thing

before I found myself in his church speaking to his people a message entitled, "Partnership in the Gospel." My text is Acts 16 and various texts in Philippians. I take Paul's relationship to his favorite church, Philippi, and show how that is exactly what we desire at Providence.

Well, the reaction was sweet! People walked up to what I have affectionately termed "my cheesy missionary display" and began to talk...and talk...and talk. The message resonated with several people different levels. I enjoyed spending the next several days with Paul and his crazy assistant pastor, Ron Jones.

Parkesburg, PA

My second stop was Highland Baptist Church. I had met the pastor, Mike Chodan, one time when I was in undergrad. We had become re-acquainted over the last couple of months on a separate issue and now got to meet again after fifteen years. Mike has been at the church for several years and has done a good job. He asked me to talk about SharperIron, Changed Life, and then Denver. I preached the same message as in the morning and it started to feel more like my own. The response afterwards was similar. Pastor asked people to stay afterwards who were interested in starting a Changed Life chapter and twenty or so people attended. I showed video testimonies from our Red Rocks chapter. Many had questions and showed a genuine interest. Let's pray that they take on the responsibility of starting a chapter in this rural Pennsylvania town.

Albany, NY

On Wednesday morning, Pastor Joe Roof picked me up to take me to his church, Calvary Baptist Church. Nestled in Albany, New York, he has pastored this congregation for fourteen years. Joe was refreshing to talk to. He has been through some deep waters but still has a fresh spirit. I found myself taking in deep breaths of encouragement from him. The four-hour drive each way was a memory. We solved a lot of problems in this crazy world! I spoke that night my same message and I actually felt it all the way to my core this time and communicated it! The response was so encouraging! I'm standing up in these churches and saying the best way I know how, "I want a relationship with you." Some people look at me like I just infringed on their personal space. Others start nodding. Usually about five people start smiling. Some smiles say, "That's gutsy." Others say, "That's sounds like something I'd be interested in." Others I'm sure are saying, "What a nut!" Regardless, it sure is getting fun. The pastor asked people not to give a love offering that night but to pray about it



Wednesday evening service about what a partnership with Providence would look like. Then, let's examine how we can improve our relationships with our current missionaries." Overall, a refreshing and fulfilling visit.

New York, NY



I joined up with Matt Recker, the pastor of Heritage Baptist Church in Manhattan. This guy's my hero! He's been a planter for 24 years and has planted three works in the city. He has a very multi-ethnic congregation and it was a joy to see him lead his flock. He is truly a pastor at heart. His wife is in lock-step with his ministry and is a wonderful help. I returned for prayer meeting on Wednesday night taking a train from Philadelphia. I preached a message called, "Everybody Needs A Pastor." Pastor Recker was gone to a conference and I thought it'd be good to give his people some reminders about the proper care of a pastor. If Providence could look like Heritage in a few years, I'd be thrilled!



Nashville, TN

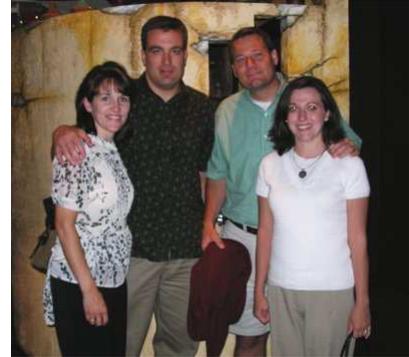
I had the privilege of being in my father-in-law's church, Whitworth Memorial Baptist Church. He has pastored there for over a decade and has just completed a brand new building. The people of Whitworth have been a blessing to us because we have been a part of their lives over the past ten years. We had a church picnic afterwards out at mom and dad's house.



...and you just might be a redneck if you have turtle races at your church picnic!

Joelton, TN

Sam and Dana Gage were our hosts at Charity Baptist Church. We enjoyed connecting with his church people, but especially he and Dana. This is where we learned that Sunday night deputation stops will be the test of our sanctification. The kids are tired. Mom and dad are tired. Regardless, we are usually blessed as a result. I say usually ☺ We went out to dinner with the Gage's the following evening and struck up a friendship with them. We really like those guys!



Wetumpka, AL

Our first stop in Wetumpka was Ebenezer Bible Church. Jen used to travel down to this church when she was a kid. It's a quaint country church pastored by



her uncle, Buddy Darnell. When we pulled up, she told me that if she got married again, that she'd like to get married at that church. I told the church that if they'd watch our kids, I'd be glad to re-do our vows right there and leave on a honeymoon for two weeks!



Our second stop was Tri-City Baptist Church pastored by Thomas Woodfin. He is a full-time chaplain in the corrections system in Alabama. However, he also planted a budding young church in his spare time. They had just finished a week of VBS and were reveling in God's blessing in seeing many young children accept Christ. The pastor and his wife were a blessing to be around.

Charlotte, NC

We stopped for some time to visit the Rosa Parks civil rights museum in Montgomery, Alabama before heading up to North Carolina. I am taking some time to study and dialogue about racism in America as I am striving to build a multi-ethnic ministry. Pastor Dan Burrell had booked us for a Wednesday night meeting at Northside Baptist Church. However, not long after we had scheduled the date, he resigned his ministry there after seven years. The church decided to still have us in and we had a wonderful time meeting the people of historic Northside. They were already trained in the whole partnership concept of missions and so it was a joy to already begin investigating ways of ministering together.



We jumped on a plane the next morning and flew into Denver. We had a five-day layover and then headed out for another eight weeks of meetings. Happy Trails!

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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