

The Air Hill Breezes



2020

Air Hill BIC Church
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Office Hours Mon., 8 am - 1 pm
Wed. - Fri. 8am - 1 pm

The excellent, short, powerful book QBO! by John Miller begins with this story:

It was a beautiful day in downtown Minneapolis when I stopped into a Rock Bottom restaurant for a quick lunch. The place was jammed. I didn't have much time, so I was happy to grab the one stool they had available at the bar. A few minutes after I sat down, a young man carrying a tray full of dirty dishes hurried past me on his way to the kitchen, but noticing me out of the corner of his eye, stopped, came back and said, "Sir, have you been helped?"

"No, I haven't," I said, "but all I really want is a salad and couple of rolls."

"I can get you that, sir. What would you like to drink?"

"I'll have a Diet Coke, please."

"Oh, I'm sorry, sir, we sell Pepsi. Would that be all right?"

"Ah, no thanks," I said with a smile, "I'll just have water with lemon, please."

"Great, I'll be back." He disappeared.

Moments later he came back with the salad, the rolls, and the water. I thanked him, and he was quickly gone again, leaving me to enjoy my meal, a satisfied customer.

Suddenly, there was a blur of activity off to my left, the "wind of enthusiasm" stirred behind me, and then, over my right shoulder stretched the "long arm of service," delivering a twenty ounce bottle, frosty on the outside,

cold on the inside, of - you guessed it – Diet Coke!

"Wow!" I said. "Thank you!"

"You're welcome," he said with a smile, and hurried off.

My first thought was "Hire this man!" Talk about the extra mile! He was clearly not your average employee. But the more I thought about the extraordinary thing he'd just done, the more I wanted to talk to him. So as soon as I could get his attention, I waved him over.

"Excuse me, I thought you didn't sell Coke," I said.

"That's right, sir, we don't."

"Well, where did this come from?"

"The grocery store around the corner, sir."

I was taken aback.

"Who paid for it?" I asked.

"I did, sir; just a dollar."

By then I was thinking profound and professional thoughts like "Cool!" But what I said was, "Come on, you've been awfully busy. How did you have time to go get it?" Smiling and growing taller before my eyes, he said, "I didn't, sir. I sent my manager."

John Miller goes on to write that most people, waiters/busboys, would have questions like these come to their head: "Why do I have to do everything around here?" "Who's supposed to be covering this area, anyway?"

Cont. on pg. 2

AIR HILL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

"To grow a healthy, loving, Christ centered church family that has a passion for reaching the community and the world for Christ"

“When are customers going to learn to read the menu?”

John Miller challenges us to ask different questions. We can make better decisions by asking better questions. He would argue that better questions begin with “What” or “How”. The question contains or focuses on “I” and not “they.” These questions focus on an action. For example, the better question might be “What can I do in ...? Rather than complain or blame, one takes action and responsibility for what happens next. “What can I do to alleviate part of the situation?”

Due to the pandemic and not being able to meet, we have just switched sermon series to one called “Facing Difficult Times.” The second rule to think about in difficult times is “Be more concerned for God’s glory than for your relief.” (From the book The Red Sea Rules by Robert Morgan) To do that, we need to begin to ask a different set of questions. We need to ask, “How can God gain the glory in this difficult time?” What can I do to glorify God in this difficult time? What can I do to obey God in this time?” We need to ask these questions,

rather than whine and complain about the circumstances. We need to be ready to serve God in the midst of these difficult times.

We need to be willing to ask the right questions. As we ask the right questions, then we will get the right answers. Our connection to God will grow so much stronger. We need to follow the example of the busboy.

(If anyone would like to borrow QBQ!, feel free to ask.)

April Spiritual Exercise

Spend **at least** 15 minutes on Good Friday and 15 minutes on Resurrection Day meditating on and responding to God for the truths of Romans 6:1-14.

Pastor John

The Gospel Challenge: April

The challenge: This year read and meditate through the gospels. Begin each day (you may choose another time) and for at least 15 minutes read and ponder the gospel reading for the day. Before you begin each reading, ask God to help you know Jesus more. For added benefit to your life, write down every insight you gain from that time or from your thoughts about the gospel as you think of it throughout the day.

Each month I will give you the next month’s readings. (It will take three months to go through each gospel.) Note: I will give you 25 readings for a month. If you miss a day, you may catch up another day.

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| 1. Mark 1:1-8 | 14. Mark 6:1-13 |
| 2. Mark 1:9-20 | 15. Mark 6:14-29 |
| 3. Mark 1:21-34 | 16. Mark 6:30-44 |
| 4. Mark 1:35-45 | 17. Mark 6:45-56 |
| 5. Mark 2:1-12 | 18. Mark 7:1-23 |
| 6. Mark 2:13-17 | 19. Mark 7:24-37 |
| 7. Mark 2:18-28 | 20. Mark 8:1-13 |
| 8. Mark 3:1-19 | 21. Mark 8:14-21 |
| 9. Mark 3:20-35 | 22. Mark 8:22-30 |
| 10. Mark 4:1-20 | 23. Mark 8:31-38 |
| 11. Mark 4:21-41 | 24. Mark 9:1-13 |
| 12. Mark 5:1-20 | 25. Mark 9:14-32 |
| 13. Mark 5:21-43 | |

Shepherd Ministry Moments



You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah. Psalm 32:7

“Spring has sprung.” My daffodils and hyacinths are in full bloom.

There are truly signs of new life.

I am thankful we can have new life in Jesus Christ. I am thankful Jesus suffered and died in my place and rose again on the third day making it possible for each of us to have new life through the blood of Jesus Christ.

As we realize all He has done for us, our hearts yearn to give ourselves to His service.

The Shepherd Ministry’s Vision Statement is:

To have lay people spiritually guide a group of families to grow in the Lord through loving and caring relationships.

Serving the Lord is an honor and is truly satisfying. Why would we want to go on doing our own thing when God has blessed us all with gifts that only he can multiply when we give them back to him for his service? Gifts of hospitality, caring, friendship, compassion, ability to work with our hands (electrical, carpentry, planting, sewing, cleaning, etc.), mental abilities (computer, financial, educational, etc.), ability to listen and many more can be used by God as we give them to him with a heart of love.

During this time of waiting and not knowing, may we allow God to use us for His glory.

CHURCH BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- \$70,000 that was approved by council for the Capital Fund is being set up with Franklin High Income Bond Fund. This fund normally has a 7% return.
- The Allegheny Conference requested help for financial help for several pastors to attend General Assembly. The board approved to give \$1000.
- The board approved reimbursing the cemetery for mowing the church lawn for 2020.
- Air Hill BIC Church wedding policy was discussed.

SPECIAL CHURCH BOARD (COVID-19)

- Discussion on alternative ways for worship service.
- Worship services are cancelled through April 5th and the board will meet on April 6th to plan Easter services and revisit the COVID-19 situation.
- Custodians and Secretary will continue to work.
- Allegheny Regional Conference will be done by email voting and will not meet at Hollowell BIC.



ORVILLE & CHERYL HADE UPDATE

We are Thankful for:

1. Good attendance and serious study by pastors of the Holy Love of God Church, who received our basic Bible training the week of Dec 16th. (See attached photo)
2. Special thanks to individuals and churches that provided funds the last few months to Special Projects: Bibles, Church Buildings, Equipping Church Leaders, Bicycles for Pastors. Current funding will provide a strong support for 2020.
3. On Feb 27-29 we were able to have the first Superintendent meeting of 2020, which provided a good start for the new year that included the annual training plan.
4. The ECP leadership training (Portuguese) March 9-13 went well. Total attendance was 15, with 5 being women leaders, as was the student participation in learning, and several leaders responded by repenting and renewing their relationship with Jesus. (see attached photo of group)

Prayer Requests

1. Supt Francisco: In January he was able to travel to Milange and meet with us. It is a miracle that he survived the initial head injury and then brain surgery a few weeks later. Please continue to pray for a full recovery and that the Sofala leaders will rise up to support and help him. (see attached recent photo)
2. Militant attacks in Cabo Delgado: it was reported that one of the districts within which several BIC churches are located will be targeted next. Please pray for encouragement and the peace of God to lift up His people there.
3. New Church constitution and Registration: We are in contact with a lawyer in Maputo who might be able help with the issues. Please pray for wisdom and guidance as to what to do.
4. DIRE (annual residency renewal): Yea!!, Orville received his card March 7th. Cheryl continues to wait since early September.
5. Mozambique church Board of Superintendents and Administrator: Please continue prayers for these leaders as they continue to learn and grow in their roles, responsibilities, and relationship with Christ. We plan to meet with them five times this year.
6. Truck parts: Yesterday a missionary friend from South Africa brought timing belt, CV boot kit, center bearing, etc. Our truck is now scheduled with the Blantyre mechanic in April.



Oberholser Journals

We're Home!! On February 29th our family safely arrived home in New Mexico after travelling for Home Ministry for the past 5 months. We praise God for His hand of protection throughout our journeys. We are grateful for the numerous opportunities to catch up with family and friends. Our hearts are full of gratitude for the many churches, families, and individuals who chose to partner with us through their prayers, finances, hosted us for a meal, shared encouraging words with us, and told others about our work. If this describes you in any way, we say "thank you"!

We set out on our journey October 2019 with specific financial goals that needed to be met. We praise God for meeting those needs and providing us with a stronger support base as we returned to resume the work God has called us to.

Connecting with friends in New Mexico Our friend Gerald P, a Navajo man in his mid-40's is not doing well. The affects of alcohol have taken a toll on his body and mind. Jason recently visited Gerald in a rehab/nursing facility where he is now confined to a wheelchair and didn't seem to recognize Jason. On a positive note, Bekah has an open door with Gerald's daughters and their mother, Cheryl. Pray for the entire "P" family as they navigate through some tough circumstances.

Many of you heard us share about our friend Fred who is sometimes rebellious towards the Gospel. We are excited that he has exhibited some signs of a surrendered heart towards the Lord; him and his family recently meet with us for home church (see photo below). We don't know long this will last as often he gets frustrated and angry when things don't go his way, but we praise God for any positive interaction we can have with him. Pray for Fred to keep his eyes on Jesus.

We've been able to visit with many other Navajo friends since returning. Several of them have shown renewed interest in meeting together for house church/cell group meetings. Pray for us as we coordinate schedules and prepare lesson materials to share with people. Pray for people to make a commitment to meet regularly and a willingness to grow in their walk with Jesus.

A new opportunity for ministry and community involvement has opened up for Jason. He's going through the process of becoming a support person for our local fire department as a chaplain. Several firstresponders have expressed the need for having someone local who's available to provide emotional and spiritual support for the department in moments of crisis. The needs in our community are so great! Pray for Jason to have wisdom and discernment to manage his time and resources effectively

Covid 19: Concerns over the coronavirus have reached our region of the US. Several cases have been reported in NM. The governor has issued a 3 week closure of all public schools. Most public events & activities have been cancelled with the hopes of decreasing the spread. Many of our local grocery stores are in short supply of essential household and food items, but so far we've been able to purchase what we need. We are thankful for a freezer full of meat and shelves full of canned produce that we harvested last year. As a homeschooling family our lives have not been greatly affected, the children are able to continue most of their regular schooling activities. While we as a family are using caution; we also see this as a tremendous opportunity to serve those who are hurting. As social distancing measures go into effect, we are making ourselves available to meet one-on-one with individuals and families who need encouragement. Pray for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our neighbors and friends.

Update: We praise the Lord for enabling us to meet our cash goal so that we could return to the field. While our immediate needs have been met we still need partners to walk with us long-term through regular, ongoing contributions.

Sale of House Update: Unfortunately, the pending sell of our old house fell through in February. It's disheartening that we weren't able to complete the process. However we are grateful that the house is still being rented; which is covering our extra housing expenses. We are praying and trusting the Lord for next steps that we should take.

(Update from Jason Oberholser)

Dear friends,

Hopefully many of you had the opportunity to read about our friend Gerald in the newsletter we sent out this morning. We apologize in advance if it seems like we're flooding your inbox, but we felt this news was urgent enough to share with several people.

I (Jason) got a call from Gerald's father this afternoon and things aren't looking good at all. The doctors don't expect his health to improve and say that he might not live long in his condition. Due to coronavirus concerns, Gerald is unable to receive visitors of any kind at the facility he's staying in.

It was very hard to hear those words this afternoon for various reasons. Gerald is one of the first Navajo friends we met when we moved here 11 years ago. We've been through a lot together; we've prayed for him often. My dream had always been for him to overcome his addiction and live a productive life in Jesus. But this news seems to put an end to those dreams. We take comfort that Gerald has made a verbal profession of his faith in Christ. However our hearts ache knowing that he could be facing the last days of life on this earth alone, without the comfort of his family.

Here's how you can pray:

Pray for our family to have wisdom to know how to best support Gerald and his family during this difficult time.

Pray for my mind to be at peace even if I'm not able to give him a proper goodbye.

Pray for Gerald's mind to be at peace with God. I'm praying that God will speak to him through dreams and visions.

Pray for Gerald's elderly father, his 4 daughters, and grandson as they face the reality of his health condition and the possibility of living without him.

Blessings,

Jason



WILDERNESS ESCAPE

WHERE GOD GUIDES & PROVIDES

VBS 2020 Needs Your Help!! June 22nd thru the 26th

This is your chance to share your heart for Christ
with a child!

Positions are available for everyone, from crafts to games,
group leader to bible story tellers and more.

Name: _____

Preferred Position: _____

- Yes, I can help
 No, not this year

What time are you available? (Check all that apply)

12:30 pm – 4:30 pm (Day Camp)

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm (Longer Evening)

Do you need nursery in order to help?

- Yes No

**** Please return to Susan Montano via email
susansito@comcast.net or call (717) 420-0675 no later than
Friday, April 17th****

