

# Calvary Baptist Newsletter

December 2017

It is strange to be writing this. I always assumed that I would retire from ministry in this church and maybe move to Arizona one day when I was ready put the snow shovel away for good. I really didn't think that this day would come so soon. But God has different plans than I do, he usually does.

As you know we will be heading to Arizona in the near future,  
where we will step into another ministry opportunity.

There are several things in our lives that have led us to believe that this is where God is leading us.

First of all, we have a growing a desire to be near family. My parents, brother and sister-in-law, nephew, aunt and uncle, as well as cousins all live in the Phoenix area. We were all raised more like siblings than cousins, and we would like to be near them again.

As you know, the last few years have been incredibly tough at times here in Baker City. I would not change any of it because of what God has done in our lives as well as in the life of our church. God has stretched us and grown us in ways we never could have expected.

One of the things that Ali and I have seen in our church family as well as in ourselves; as we have gotten healthy and healed up from those tough times, our children have paid a high price. We didn't see it at the time because we were not spiritually or emotionally healthy as we should have been. As the cracks in us have been filled we have seen the cracks that we allowed to develop in our family. In a lot of ways this is a new start for us and God has provided an opportunity to repair these cracks in a place where we will be surrounded by our family.

What has made this decision to move so difficult is all of you. You have become our family and you have seen us through the most difficult times in our lives. In a lot of ways it would be easier to stay here. It would definitely feel safer in a variety of ways. That said, there has been a lot of turbulent water under the bridge for us as a family. Just getting to a place where much of that negativity is gone will be healing for us.

We are excited that we get to step into a new ministry opportunity, where we will be able to use the lessons that God has taught us over these past years. It is a strange feeling to be excited about making a change like this but feeling at the same time a profound sadness about the ones we are leaving.

I hope this makes sense to all of you. I know that Ali and I have kind of been playing it by ear. We have done this intentionally, never wanting to get ahead of God or fall too far behind Him. We have worked to stay in step with His Spirit and this is where He has led us.

The upside is that Ali, Chloe and Daniel will be here for the next 6 months and I will be back monthly. We are not saying goodbye quite yet, and even when we do we expect regular winter visits from you and you can expect us to show up on your doorstep in the coming summers. They have a saying down there that you can't shovel sunshine, and that is true. It is also true that you can get heat stroke, so getting out of the heat from time to time will be nice for us.

We love you more than you know or we could ever express, and we are excited to see and hear how God prospers this place in the years to come.

Affectionately, Pastor Dave

## Danielle in Deutschland

Wow! I can't believe that it's after Thanksgiving already!

November has been a busy month! I started my classes:

**Aufbaukurs:** intensive language learning, grammar, rules, etc.

**Wechselrede:** we talk in German (shocker) about news articles and different themes each week.

**Phonetik & Konversation:** Each week there is a short presentation from a different student on a theme/topic they pick then we start the real work. So far its just been different sounds we make for certain letters.

**Panorama Deutschland:** This class is an overview of Germany. Each week a group presents on the day's topic and then we have discussion/question time, and then our teacher talks more about the theme. One week for this class we went to Franzoesiches Viertel (French quarter) and had a tour/class on the area.

I finally got my visa! That was a process for sure, a lot of paperwork, waiting, more paperwork and more waiting!

Thanksgiving Day, after class I headed to Freudenstadt, a town about 2 hours away. I stayed the night with a teacher, Frau Schumacher. On Friday I went to her classes and told of my life in the States. We had some discussion, question and answer time... and then because of a cold, I lost my voice. After the three presentations I headed back to Tuebingen for Thanksgiving Dinner facilitated by the Oregon Study Center with other Oregon students and Alumni in attendance. It was a good time... even without my voice! Saturday and Sunday I spent at home trying to recover from this nasty cold, by drinking lots of tea, some coffee, not talking, resting and studying.

I had my second Grammatiktest today (Monday, Nov 27) for my Aufbaukurs. I was worried that I hadn't studied enough, but I finished the test with 20 minutes to spare even after checking for mistakes! I'm hoping that I did well.

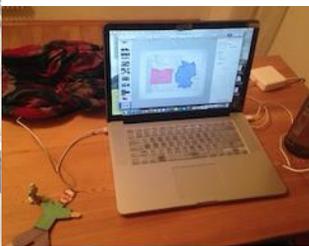
Tuebingen Christmasmarkt is coming up in a few weeks as well as the ChocoArt festival here in town! I can't wait for those! I'm looking forward to seeing my Mom and Sister in a few weeks for Christmas! That's probably my best Christmas present this year! I'm looking forward to seeing them, hanging out, showing them my city, and visiting other Christmas markets too!

For more information, check out my blog at [fanofgod.wordpress.com](http://fanofgod.wordpress.com).

Thanksgiving

Presentation Prep

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Presentation



Please note that Tamera will be out of the office from December 19<sup>th</sup> to January 5<sup>th</sup> to visit Danielle with Crystal. We will keep you posted on changes to office hours.

## Who is this Calvary Classic?

...A native Washingtonian who has wandered far from home. He was saved in a children's meeting at a young age. A college graduate with +3 years of study. He has been to Europe and South America and is fluent in two languages. In his lifetime he has been an international telephone operator, Christian news reporter, had his own radio program and ran sound and light for theatrical performances. His hobbies are music and reading about scientific or unusual things. He is married with 3 children and 2 grandchildren. Who is he?

See Page 3 for the answer.



# Messy Hair Thirsty Heart

Adena Rosin



We live in a very fast-paced world. Our culture is used to getting everything almost immediately. Food comes prepackaged and ready to eat, coffee shops offer piping hot drinks to caffeine crazed individuals faster than that old drip coffee pot that sits, collecting dust on the counters in our homes. Procrastinators can even order all their Christmas gifts online and with the click of the mouse can have all their shopping done and the gifts delivered right to their doorstep, sometimes as early as the next day.

Everybody is so go, go, go all the time. We don't even have to slow down to have a conversation, not with Facechat and Instanap or all of the other fancy social media vying for our time and seducing us with their promises of instant gratification. We are all on autopilot, speeding through life. Nobody looks to the left or to the right. We all just plow straight on, head first through anyone and anything that is in the way of our instant happiness. We can't slow down because the faster we go the happier we will be. The more we accomplish at our breakneck speed the better. Or at least we tell ourselves that.

So then how do we wait patiently on the Lord when waiting and patiently are not words in our vocabulary? When you've come to a crossroad and you are rearing to go, but the Lord seems to be taking His sweet time? When you have prayed time, and time again for direction or clarification and all you get from Him is "Be still. I've still got you." How do you wait for the Lord to move when it seems like He may never move?

**First**, you turn off the autopilot. It's dangerous and it glitches anyway and you don't even want to see the damage control God has to use after you went blindly plowing, head first through life.

**Second**, stop. Stop trying to get the God of the universe to budge because you have a schedule to keep that was made while being reckless with the life He has given you. Newsflash! He is bigger than you are; He isn't going to move just because you said so.

**Lastly**, trust Him. God's plans for our lives are so much better, they are so much bigger than we could ever imagine. He isn't going to lead us anywhere where He won't be. When we realize this, we can surrender our will to God's.

***"Be still, and know that I am God! I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."*** PSALM 46:10

**This Month's Calvary  
Classic is ....  
Bob Haskell**



**RESOLUTION \* CHALLENGE \* GOAL**

WE are going to read the Bible through this year. Are you with us? Maybe you have never done this, maybe you have done this more than a dozen times. It doesn't matter. Knowing God's word matters; reading God's word matters. Let's do this. You might want to use a Bible reading guide that you can find on the internet. You might want to read 3 1/2 chapters each day, or you might want to read 25 chapters a week all in one day. The method doesn't matter. It's important to read God's whole plan. Seeing the whole picture strengthens your faith, it fills your mind with God's thoughts and purposes.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer. Sign up and receive encouragements through the year. We can do this, let's do it together.

# December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8:30am Sunday School 10am Church 6pm Youth Group	27 6pm SmG @ Wittich's 	28 6pm Ladies SmG @ Cannon's 6pm SmG @ Shumway's	29 6:30p SmG @ Haskell's	30 530p Community Dinner W Practice 6:30p Family Date Night	1 	2 Festival of Trees Twilight Parade
3 8:30am Sunday School 10am Church 6pm Youth Group	4 6pm SmG @ Wittich's	5 6pm Ladies SmG @ Cannon's 6pm SmG @ Shumway's	6 6:30p SmG @ Haskell's	7 530p Community Dinner W Practice 6:30p Family Date Night	8 	9 
10 8:30am Sunday School 10am Church 6pm Youth Group	11 6pm SmG @ Wittich's	12 3pm Elders 6pm Ladies SmG @ Cannon's 6pm SmG @ Shumway's	13 6:30p SmG @ Haskell's	14 530p Community Dinner W Practice 6:30p Family Date Night	15	16 
17 8:30am Sunday School 10am Church 6p Youth Group 4p Calvary Classics Party	18 6pm SmG @ Wittich's	19 6pm Ladies SmG @ Cannon's	20 6:30p SmG @ Haskell's	21 530p Community Dinner W Practice 6:30p Family Date Night	22	23 
24 8:30am Sunday School 10am Church 6pm Youth Group	25 <b>Merry Christmas</b> 6pm SmG @ Wittich's	26 3pm Elders 6pm Ladies SmG @ Cannon's	27 6:30p SmG @ Haskell's	28 530p Community Dinner W Practice 6:30p Family Date Night	29 	30
31 8:30am Sunday School 10am Church 6pm Bunco & Dave Farewell Party	1 <b>New Year's Day</b> 6pm SmG @ Wittich's <b>Newsletter Items Due to Janice</b>	2 6pm Ladies SmG @ Cannon's 6pm SmG @ Shumway's	3 6:30p SmG @ Haskell's	4 530p Community Dinner W Practice 6:30p Family Date Night	5	6 

**On New Year's Eve,  
Sunday Dec. 31,  
from 6p-9pm-ish**  
**We will have a  
combined Bunco  
Party and Send off  
for Pastor Dave in  
Browning Hall.**

**Many Thanks to the  
decorating folks who  
shared their talents  
with us. They provided  
a nativity scene in the  
baptistry and several  
elegant displays  
around the building.  
Thanks Again!**

## **A Blast from Church Past**

In researching things, I found this saying for the new year in more than one Old Annual Reports, and thought it would be good to share something old for the new year, I wish I could give credit to whoever submitted it:

IN THE NEW YEAR ARE YOU WILLING....

- ...To close your book of complaints and open the book of praise?
- ...To ignore what life owes you and to think about what you owe life?
- ...To stop looking for friendship and to start being friendly?
- ...To be content with such things as you have and to stop whining for the things you have not?
- ...To enjoy the simple blessings of life and to cease striving for the artificial pleasure of the day?
- ...To forget what you have accomplished and to meditate on what others have done for you?
- ...To cease looking for someone to help you and to devote yourself to helping others?
- ...To consecrate your life to the service of an imperfect church and to remember that Christ chose twelve imperfect followers to be His disciples.

**Let us know if you have  
something to share in the  
newsletter. We would  
love to hear from you.  
While you are thinking  
about this, send it in to  
Janice now and then you  
can cross it off your list!**



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