

Love God - Love Others - Serve the World www.rushvillechurchofchrist.com

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The Glory of Christ in Everyday Life By Pastor Jason Triplett

One of my former youth ministry students lamented to me about her Christian upbringing.

"Pastor Jason, I just don't have a cool story like yours. You were on drugs and hopeless and Jesus saved you from that. I've been in Church since the day I was born, I was baptized when I was seven. I've never done anything like what you've done. I want a cool story like yours."

I just looked at her in the eyes and gave her my short answer, "*No... you don't.*" Then I encouraged her to give praise to God that her parents raised her to know and love Jesus. I didn't really have that. I went to Church occasionally, but my parents never actually taught me how to love Christ and stay near to Him. I wanted her to know how truly blessed she was to be nurtured in a devoted Christian family.

I remember that story and it causes me to think about expectations. What do we think the Christian life is supposed to be? Should every story of following Christ be one of going from the deep darkness of depression and addiction to new life in Him? Should each Christian person be expected to travel the world on mission to people unreached with the Gospel? Can we presume that every Christian go into full time vocational ministry?

Or is it just as "Christian" to love Jesus deeply yet have lasting roots in a local community? Can we express our love for Jesus by abiding in our Christian family ties and the everyday progression of American life? Can we love the Lord and go to the same Church our whole life, in the same town, with the same people?

I think Satan tries to convince us God's Glory cannot be in the common life; in the everyday. I know a family whose Sunday schedule has been the same for decades. They wake up, go to worship on Sunday morning, then off to lunch at grandmas, then head home and spend time with the kids Sunday evening. As the years pass, the daughters become moms, the moms become Grandmas, but the practice is always the same. Can God's Glory be seen in such routine?

Unquestionably yes. In fact, from the perspective of those outside that circle, the Glory of God shines brightly. Think of a foster kid whose family had never taken them to Church, taught them about Jesus or given them the love of the Father. When that child is placed with a family whose faith saturates the everyday, God's Glory shines brilliantly. It can shock them because it's so foreign.

People tend to buy into something the world sells about human existence. We sometimes think we need to make our lives remarkable because no one else will. We think we need to be justice warriors, global entrepreneurs, social media influencers, bastions of good will or even high-performance athletes to have a glorious life. We want all the features of glorious human life and believe that Jesus will lead us to it. We don't understand that life in Christ is Glorious alone. There is no need for anything in addition to Jesus for the everyday to be remarkable.

What my former youth ministry student didn't understand is that her life was already full of God's Glory. She was raised next to the light of the fire of God. Her parents made sure of that and set her on the foundation of Jesus Christ. Just because she hadn't immersed herself in the depths of darkness or participated in the same sins as an addict doesn't mean she wasn't dead in her sin before faith in Christ. And it doesn't mean that God's radiance was any less intense in her supposed "humdrum" existence. She had just lived closer to God for longer than others who didn't have that same blessing. May we see the radiance of God's Glory in the everyday and give praise to Him whose light outshines all darkness.

CHURCH IN THE PARK

Independence

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SUNDAY JULY 25TH - SCRIPPS PARK CHURCH@9:45AM BBQ LUNCH PROVIDED BY STATION 1883 SWIM TIME @ SCRIPPS PARK POOL IPM-4PM BRING A LAWN CHAIR!

You are invited to a Surprise Celebration of Allen & Jane's



40th Wedding Anniversary

Sat July 10 - 6 pm First Christian Church 1421 Beard Beardstown, IL 62681

RSVP by July 3 to Tiffany Wetzel 309-255-3276 <u>Cards may be sent to</u> Tiffany Wetzel 4658 E Hayden Dr Decatur, IL 62521



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Unity in Schuyler County

Leaders of our country & military

Brian Ralston health

Jill Smith Gooding

Marian Kindhart blood clot / in St John's

Roy Lung (Kay Billingsley's son) heart valve

Family of Scott Wishard

Family of Carolyn Tyler

Sylvia DeCroix is on Hospice

The Bartons - our Missionary family who recently had twins at 26 weeks - Mommy Megan is doing fine; babies Anna Joy 1#,13oz & Jireh Hope 2# in NICU for 8 - 10 weeks

Bev Kotter Koller - Covid recovery - is now in rehab unit still on Oxygen & very weak but recovering well! Very thankful for the prayers. **Barb Wright - Life transitions**

Ann Crook health

Nathan Ralston

Garrett Collins - Cancer is back

10 year old James Pax (Thelma's cousin's grandson) has Stage 4 Cancer

Updated: 6/30/2021

Rick Ashcraft - Praise for a great report!

Janet Detrick - Cancer

Alisha's grandmother - cancer

Thelma - health

Kailey Orwig - deployed to South Korea

Abigail Norton - deployed to Africa

Church Building Need

Liz Wood - cancer

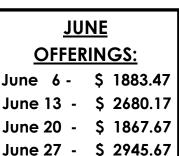
Allen & Jane Wright - 40th Anniversary!

Dan Norton - stroke recovery

THE SEARCH CONTINUES...

Please continue to pray with us as we search for an Associate Minister to serve with RCC.

Thanks! The RCC Elders





Prayer Requests can be submitted and updated through the online Prayer card. Find it at rushvillechurchofchrist.com