

PULPIT REFLECTIONS

By Pastor Steve Ford
Grace Baptist Church

I recently tried to set up internet and email capability for my in-laws in their new retirement community apartment. I followed all the directions, checked and double-checked all the settings and it would not work. I googled the error message I was getting and discovered this was a problem that others had experienced as well, but I couldn't find anyone who had found a solution. I couldn't tell if there was a design flaw or if I just didn't know enough about how the program was designed to work. It's frustrating when something doesn't work the way it was designed to. I really wished I could talk to the guy who designed it.

I meet a lot of people who are frustrated with their lives and it's a similar problem. I think most people have a sense that they exist for a purpose, but too many live their lives every day wondering if

they are anywhere close to fulfilling it. We all could benefit from talking to the designer.

You can look at most any gadget and tell it has some purpose, even if you don't know what that purpose is. Just by observation you can tell that someone designed that gadget for something. It's the same with people. It doesn't take a lot of deep contemplation to realize we each exist for a purpose. From there, it's a short step to realize we must have a designer. Even well-known atheist, Bertrand Russell concluded "unless you assume a god, the question of life's purpose is meaningless."

The Bible says, "we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10, NIV). This is a bold proposition that affirms a couple of things to anyone who wants to know why they live.

First, this verse affirms that our lives are meaningful because we have a creator who designed us for a purpose. We

exist as "God's workmanship" and He has planned specific "good works" for each of us to do. All your inner desires to make a difference in the world resonate with this affirmation that you were designed by God to do good things.

Second, this verse affirms that your purpose is good. Your purpose is not measured by your view of yourself or by what others think of you. Your purpose is not defined by how you came into this world, the fortune or misfortune you've had, or how you've been treated. Age doesn't matter. Education isn't a factor. Race and gender don't figure in. Your purpose is defined by the plan God made for you before He created you, and His plan is all about the good He wants to do through you. Your life is significant because God made you that way.

This is all very good to know, but it's not enough. I know that the software I installed for my in-laws was created for a good purpose, but it is still not working. It's not

enough just to know God created you for a good purpose, if you never fulfill that purpose. You need to get to know your creator. It is in knowing God that you can know and fulfill the purpose for which you were created.

In Jeremiah 29:13, God promises, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Getting to know God begins with an intentional decision to seek Him. God doesn't want to be worshipped from afar. He wants you to know Him as intimately as He knows you. So do something about it. Take some steps toward God. If you're not sure how to do that, ask someone you know who does. If you don't know anyone like that, I'd be happy to share with you my experiences in seeking God. You can feel free to contact me at steve@gracebaptistvermillion.com or 624-4949. You don't have to have it all figured out. Just begin moving toward God, and He will see that you get there.



USD President James Abbott presents Aldora "Dot" Kool with a framed certificate naming her September 2009 Employee of the Month.

Kool named September Employee of the Month

Aldora "Dot" Kool, a facility worker in the Facilities Management Department at The University of South Dakota, was recognized as the September 2009 Career Services Employee of the Month last week.

Kool, who is responsible for cleaning and maintaining four buildings at USD, made an early impression on coworkers and staff as she has only been employed at The U since May 2008.

"I just like to make sure everything looks up to par," she said with a smile during a reception in her honor at the Andrew E. Lee Memorial Medicine and Science Building atrium on Friday, Sept. 11. "Especially the (National Music) Museum; with so many visitors it needs to look nice."

Nominated for the award by Vicky Kuklentz, Arian Sheets, Sarah Richardson and Deborah Check Reeves of the National Music Museum, Kool was cited for working selflessly and her caring demeanor. "Dot always does a beautiful

job making the National Music Museum shine and sparkle for our visitors," Sheets stated in her nomination. "For many who come as tourists, the Museum represents their first experience of USD, and she makes sure we make the best impression possible."

Additionally, Kool, a Hartington, NE, native, is responsible for keeping the Native American Culture Center, Danforth Chapel and Farber House in top shape. She enjoys the responsibility, she said, as those buildings are popular campus attractions. Her job at USD is different than operating a daycare, which she did previously while in Gayville, where she resides with her husband of 35 years, Bob.

"I guess I needed to find something different," she said of the career change. "I'll still see the kids (from daycare) at school functions or at a football game and they'll see me and give me a hug. But I like what I'm doing now. Everyone's friendly and everybody's welcoming on campus."

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Jolly JIs have busy summer

Jolly J.J. 4-H club members met on Monday, June 9 at the Extension building. They started the evening off by planting flowers in two flower pots.

Ellen Hanson, vice president, filled in as president for the evening and called the meeting to order. Abby Weiss led the Pledge of Allegiance. Marley Hanson led the 4-H pledge. Ashley Sorensen read the secretary's report. Pam Hanson gave an updated treasurer's report.

Old Business: Many thank yous were given out verbally for community service projects participation in May. Several thank you cards were signed by club members.

A thank you goes out to the Midwest Dairy Association for the grant money awarded to the Jolly J.J. 4-H club. The grant money was used to provide a dairy snack to the children during break time of the Children's Theatre Workshop, June 1-5. Jolly J.J. club members served one of the three-day dairy servings recommended every day that week. This was their June dairy promotion.

New Business: Club members brought more pop tabs for the "Kids Helping Kids" community service project. Upcoming events were discussed: Clay County Fair Junior Prince and Princess, S.E.T. Days, judging schools, acrylic painting class, fashion revue, public present-

tation, etc.

Discussion took place about helping at the Vermillion Community Theatre play In Every Generation. Club members also discussed attending a Canaries baseball 4-H sponsored game in July.

The July club meeting date had to be changed due to a conflict so the new July meeting date was set.

Marley Hanson gave a demonstration in the home environment area called, "Fit To Be Tied."

Club members worked on painting primer on their 4-H signs.

Marley Hanson provided refreshments.

Anyone interested in joining a 4-H club can call the Extension office at 677-7111, to get more information.

Reporters:
Jolly J.J. 4-H members

Webster addresses Vermillion Rotarians

The Vermillion Rotary Club held its weekly luncheon meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at the Neuharth Center on the campus of USD. President David Lorenz opened the meeting and led us in the invocation. This was followed by a round of singing, introduction of guests including two Vermillion High School seniors, and announcements.

Rotarian Matt Moen introduced Ed Webster as our speaker for the day. Mr. Webster is an extraordinary moun-

tainier. As a child he read a book about the first American expedition to Mount Everest, and he said this changed his life forever. He began thinking about Everest and felt that maybe someday he would be able to climb it.

Up until 1990 the only way to get to Mount Everest was to be invited to climb with a team that was considered capable of the feat. He became part of the 1985 American team. At the time he was 28 years old and a self-taught rock climber. On that attempt he did not quite reach the summit.

At the age of 30 he was again invited to join a team, which was going to attempt to climb the north side of Everest. Again he did not reach the summit but was able to climb the north peak of Everest solo. His third expedition had as its goal to try a new route that had never been climbed and was considered the most dangerous. The east face was chosen and was known as the forgotten face. It had only been climbed three times.

At times the slope was up to 95 degrees and very difficult. They felt that it was too dangerous to ask sherpas to make the climb, so only the four people on the team would make the attempt. Since they had to move all the equipment and supplies themselves, they decided to use only minimal equipment. This meant no oxygen or radios.

He said that this decision was based on the idea that they

were young enough to believe they could do anything. It took two months to establish the final base camp. Lack of oxygen at those altitudes made the situation a life and death one. They were only able to climb about 200 feet per hour.

Mr. Webster himself was able to get to 28,700 feet without oxygen. Only one member was able to reach the summit. Their return down the mountain almost killed them. It took three-and-a-half days to return to the top-most camp. They were caught in a severe storm overnight on the mountain and were encased in fog most of the time.

They had no food for the descent and all were suffering from extreme frostbite. During the descent he said they each lost about 25 pounds of body weight.

When asked how they survived, he said it was because of friendship. He also said that mountain climbers need to be incredibly optimistic. They are all still friends and have frequent reunions. He felt that any great effort needed such optimism and focus to succeed.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

CHECK IT OUT

By Anne Marshall
Vermillion Public Library

Children's Department Information

After school events are held for school-age children twice a month at the library, usually on Thursday from 3:45 to 5 p.m. One program is designed for early elementary children in kindergarten and first grade, while the other centers on activities for students from second grade through fifth grade. Each event will focus on a particular book, author, or series and include activities such as trivia, scavenger hunts, games, and crafts. After school treats will be provided. Registration is not required.

The October program for the early elementary students will feature the book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, by Eric Carle. In October, older students will explore the classic read, *Where the Wild Things Are*, by Maurice Sendak, prior to the movie release.

The November programs will introduce the South Dakota Prairie Bud and Prairie Pasque books. For more information, please call Children's Librarian Joyce Moore at 677-7060.

DearReader.com Book Club

The DearReader.com Book Club offers many selections to Internet patrons. Each book runs for five days, Monday through Friday. Some genres offer selections every other week. Check out this service by registering at the library's Web site, <http://vpl.sdn.net> and clicking on the book club icon. Online patrons can also find the club at www.supportlibrary.com/su/su.cfm?x=470596. The following selections for the week of Oct. 4, 2009 are:

AUDIO BOOK: *The Goliath Bone*, by Mickey Spillane.

BUSINESS: *Stop Self-Sabotage*, by Pat Pearson.

FICTION: *The Sugar Queen*, by Sarah Addison Allen.

GOOD NEWS: *A Lady of Secret Devotion*, by Tracie Peterson.

MYSTERY: *The Goliath Bone*, by Mickey Spillane.

NON-FICTION: *The Genius of Instinct*, by Dr. Hendrie Weisinger.

PRE-PUB: Check the Website for this selection.

ROMANCE: *Beneath Bone Lake*, by Colleen Thompson.

SCIENCE FICTION: *Galaxy Blues*, by Allen Steele.

TEEN: *Franny Parker*, by Hannah Roberts McKinnon.

THRILLER: *Aphrodisiac*, by Allyson Roy.

New Adult Non-Fiction Collection

Alaska is a place where know-how is currency and a novice's mistakes can kill you. It has extreme landscapes in both its beauty and challenges and is nicknamed "The Last Frontier" with good reason. In the new book, *Tide, Feather, Snow: A Life in Alaska*, author Miranda Weiss finds her personal journey of adventure, physical challenge, and cultural clash.

When Simon Majumdar

turned 40, he realized there had to be more in life than his stable but uninspiring desk job. As he wondered how to escape his career, he rediscovered a list of goals scrawled out years before. A list that simply read: "Go everywhere, eat everything." Majumdar chronicles a yearlong search for the delicious and curious in his book, *Eat My Globe*.

The Wild Marsh is author Rick Bass's most mature, full account of life in Montana's Yaak Valley. It begins with his family settling in for the long winter and captures all the subtle harbingers of change that mark each passing month.

On May 20, 1969, the 30-story-high Apollo II Saturn V space shuttle was trundled from Cape Kennedy's Vehicle Assembly Building to the distant loneliness of Pad 39A for its final inspection and countdown. Finally, at 9:32 a.m., Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Mike Collins lifted into the skies on the greatest adventure in modern history, the first trip to the moon. Award-winning historian, Craig Nelson, replays this adventure in *Rock-et Men: The Epic Story of the First Men on the Moon*.

These new adult non-fiction selections can be found on the shelves behind the circulation desk.

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