



THE BEACON



WORSHIP TIME

Sunday School - 9:00 AM

Worship Service - 10:10 AM

Isiah 60:1

“Arise, shine,
for your light
has come,
and the
glory of the
Lord rises
upon you.”

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 8/31 - Church Board Meeting
- 9/20 - Covered Dish Luncheon
- 9/25-26 - Disaster Relief Auction
- 9/27 - Love Feast/Communion
- 10/10-11 - District Conference
- 10/12 - Church Board Meeting
- 10/18 - Covered Dish Luncheon



OUT OF THE WATER

Have you ever had an experience where your bubble was burst? Or maybe you have experienced a moment where you realized that what you thought was normal, or correct, was not the only way something could be. It is the classic a fish does not know it is in water until it is taken out of the water.

We are often like fish in water. We do not notice what has been shaping us because we have been swimming in it for so long. It is only when we are pulled out of it, or when the Word of God confronts it, that we begin to realize how much of what felt normal was actually forming us.

Sometimes that “water” is not necessarily sinful. Sometimes it is simply familiar. It is the routines we know, the people we are used to, the assumptions we carry, the pace we keep, and the spiritual habits we have settled into over time. But even familiar water can become invisible to us. And when something pulls us out for a moment, we may begin to see ourselves more clearly.

I recently had this kind of experience while teaching the Bible lesson for the Saturday evening worship hosted by Main Point. Main Point Ministries serves those who are either recently through drug rehab, prison, or suffering with forms of addiction outside of drugs. Some of these men were clean only days. Others had been sober for a decade.

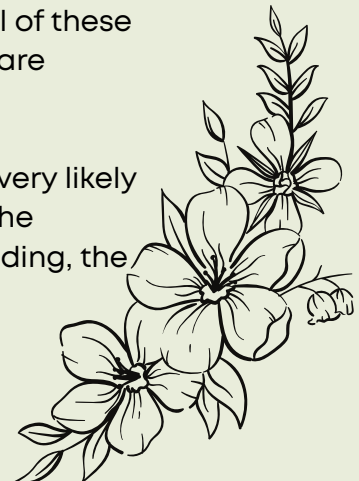
What was most enjoyable for me was observing that the majority of the men there did not fit the picture someone might have expected. Many of them looked like they could be found in the pews of Mohler. Some of the men were plain Mennonite, one was Amish, and some looked and dressed like me. Of course, there were those who fit the stereotype, but that was not my main observation. We all know, at least in principle, that you cannot judge a book by its cover.

What thrilled me was that these men’s hearts were either close to Jesus or on fire for Jesus. Not only that, they were also knowledgeable about their faith and the Bible. In some cases, they answered and responded in ways that would rival lifelong church members. But what was truly infectious to me about the evening was the enthusiastic way they talked about their faith, and the enthusiasm they had to show up on a Saturday evening from 6:15 to 9:30 p.m. and then hang around afterward to keep talking.

It showed me something that maybe we lose over time as people raised in the faith. We can forget what it feels like to be redeemed by Christ. We can lose the enthusiasm we once had for our faith and for living life in Jesus’ name. We can grow so used to the language of grace that we forget the wonder of grace itself.

I suppose I was also reminded that you never know what someone is going through. Many of these men looked like me, or like any number of other church-going people. What is more, all of these brothers in Christ must attend a church to be part of the program, so all of them are attending somewhere.

The point is this: if you look to your left or right, even in a small congregation, it is very likely that you are not fully aware of what each person is carrying. You may not know the battles they have fought, the temptations they are resisting, the grief that are holding, the



shame they are trying to bring into the light, or the ways Christ is slowly rebuilding them.

I was refreshed and renewed by these gentlemen. And it was a little like being taken out of the water for a bit. It helped me see more clearly. It reminded me of the joy of redemption, the power of testimony, and the beauty of simple, earnest faith. I hope this small testimony from last Saturday evening might do something similar for you.

First, I think we should all spend time with people who can reinvigorate our excitement and enthusiasm surrounding our redemption through Christ. There is something deeply refreshing about being around people who have not yet grown casual about grace. Their joy reminds us that forgiveness is not ordinary. Their gratitude reminds us that salvation is not a small thing. Their hunger reminds us that the Word of God is living and active. Their honesty reminds us that we all come to Christ needy.

Second, this out-of-water experience helps reveal our own need to regularly examine where we may have become comfortable, stagnant, resistant, or unaware. Sometimes we do not see our need to grow because we have not spent enough time outside of what feels normal and safe. We may not realize how much our habits, routines, preferences, and assumptions have shaped us until Christ, in His kindness, puts us in a different room with different people and lets us see His grace at work there too. That is a gift.

It is good for us to be reminded that the kingdom of God is bigger than our familiar circles. It is good for us to hear faith spoken with fresh gratitude. It is good for us to remember that every pew holds stories we cannot see. And it is good for us to be pulled, from time to time, out of the water long enough to ask:

What has been shaping me?

Where have I grown too comfortable?

Have I lost some of the joy of being redeemed?

And am I still amazed by the grace of Christ?

May God give us eyes to see His grace at work, both in others and in ourselves. And may He keep renewing in us the joy of our salvation. ~ Pastor Cody





Our Church History

75 years ago:

1. Springville Congregation assembled in regular council September 25th, 1951 at 7:30 pm. in the Cocalico House with Elder John L. Myer presiding. Brother Ralph Heisey conducted the opening devotions by using hymn No. 25 and devotional reading No. 1 followed by prayer.
2. The question of how our Building Fund offerings can be improved was continued from the previous Council. The Church Treasurer, Rufus Douple, reported that the offerings during the past year had improved from the former year.
3. Report on new hymnals. Brother Myer reported that six new Brethren Hymnals are in the hands of several members and that 2 dozen more had been ordered.
4. Cradle Roll Superintendent Report accepted as read: On the roll September 26, 1950 – 29, Added during the year – 15, Removed from Roll 4 years old – 9, Total on the Roll September 25th, 1951 – 35.
5. Elections for various offices resulted as follows: Sunday School Superintendent – Rufus Royer, 1st Assistant – Harry Gibbel, 2nd Assistant – Ralph Heisey, Sunday School Treasurer – John Ebersole, Trustees – Mohlers – Ira Hertzog and Cocalico – Elmer Wenger, Board of Christian Education – John Myer, Amos Heisey, Ralph Heisey, Delegates to District Conference – Howard Kreider, Harry Gibbel, Amos Heisey, Alternates – John Ebersole, Samuel Heffley, Jacob Leininger
6. Several Sunday School classes offered to help the Janitor clean the Mohler Church. Offer was accepted.
7. The church decided to have Brother Rufus Royer contact Marshall Smith and obtain a settlement price either to put the curtains in a satisfactory working manner or to be paid for the work done to date either with or without the surplus curtain material and then to have someone contact another party and obtain a price for putting curtains in a working manner.
8. A paper to repair the floor in the basement at Mohler House. The church voted to defer this matter until the curtains are in working condition.
9. A paper to have all money counted by 2 persons before leaving the church and keep a record of same for auditors. The church voted to continue as at present.
10. The church voted to have the District Ministerial Board come in to take the vote of the church with respect to calling someone to the ministry.

100 years:

1. Springville Congregation assembled in council this 2nd day of October, 1926 with Elder I.W. Taylor presiding who opened the meeting with song No. 329 then read a portion of scripture followed by prayer.
2. First in order was the matter concerning the drive way around the Cocalico House. One of the deacons reported having ordered stone from a certain party and had given them ample time to deliver them but because they failed to deliver them they ordered some from another party with the promise that they would be delivered in the near future.
3. In the case between Brother William Keller and the Reddig estate (of minutes of March 20th, 1926, Article 8), Brother Keller has decided to accept proposition made by the church on that date, and to settle matters before our next Love Feast.
4. Brother Aaron Gibbel asked the church to be relieved as Gospel Messenger Agent. The church granted his request and appointed Brother Amos Landis in his stead.
5. The church appointed Brother John Myer to take charge of the singing at funerals.
6. Received by certificate Brother Martin Brubaker, wife Maria and son Daniel.
7. Date for Love Feast October 19th and 20th.

125 years ago

1. Council opened August 3th, 1901 at 1:30 pm with Elder Israel Wenger presiding assisted by Elder John Herr.
2. Sister Katie Lutz was again requested to appear at the Brick Meeting House in six weeks and if she fails to appear not to be held any longer as a sister.
3. Brother Daniel Hertzog and wife were disowned for going to law without first consulting the church and that the door is open for them to come back upon their confession.
4. It was agreed to furnish our quota for the expense of Annual Meeting and Sister Rebecca Wiest volunteered to furnish the amount of \$141.00 backed by the Springville Congregation.
5. An opportunity was given to give to the Lititz Annual Meeting Fund as an inducement to have the Annual Meeting at Lititz. Brother Aaron Gibbel was appointed to receive the money subscribed for the fund.
6. Agreed that the clothing of Sister Elizabeth Miller be given to her sister and the other things be sold and turned to money.
7. It was decided to have a series of meetings at Stevens in the warehouse.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make our COMMUNITY FAMILY FUN DAY such a wonderful and joyful time. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated food, helped with activities, served, cleaned up and welcomed our community with smiles and kindness. Your time and effort made a difference as we shared God's love, joy and hospitality with our community. Enjoy the collage of pictures!





Back to School Prayer

As we head back into our classrooms may your roots go down deep into God's soil so you will bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

We pray that you will sow seeds of life and hope cultivating a harvest of shalom.

May your mind be clear and engaged, your memory sharp, and your wisdom beyond your years.

May you be safe and protected from anything that seeks to steal, kill, or destroy in any measure. When you are afraid, may you feel God's love wrapped around you.

When disappointments or disasters come—and they will—may you find the depths of the resilience and rise again.

May you do what is right and good and kind and just, no matter what everyone else might do, knowing you are created in the image of God.

We pray that you will be a blessing to your teachers and the school staff.

We pray for good friendships that will sharpen and delight you.

We pray you will have eyes to see the lonely ones. May you have many opportunities to practice being both brave and kind.

Beloved child of God, we send you out in the power and peace of Love itself, prepared and anointed, knowing you walk upon steady ground.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, one God and Mother of us all.

Amen.

