



INFO

Words From The Path.

By Pastor Ben Murphy

This past week, I overheard a man having a conversation with his wife, via cell-phone. It seemed that every other word from his lips was the word 'dear!' "Yes dear." "I'll do it dear, as soon as I get home, dear." "Any thing you say, dear!" "Surely dear, you may purchase as many as you wish, dear." (I made that last one up. Even the most henpecked amongst has better conditioning that to make that statement!)

Even though the conversation worried me somewhat, I began thinking about the word *dear*. It worried me first that my wife would also overhear the conversation and asks me why I never use such precious-sounding words to her when we communicate. But once I realized that she was out of ear-shot and I got past this fear, I listened to how pleasingly and lovingly he uttered the word, *dear* to his dear wife. On the one hand I thought how wonderful it was for a person to show such respect and loyalty to a spouse. On the other hand, I kind of got the 'willies' thinking about an advertisement I saw recently. The ad was for a decal that one may purchase for \$5.98 (www.weddingstar.com) that sticks to the bottom or the side of the man's shoe that says, "Yes dear." Now why would any normal thinking human being want to put such a thing as that on their shoes? If you're going to spend six bucks on something like that, why not just stick it to your forehead? The word *dear* is a lovely word for sure, but let's not go overboard with it! Let's not get carried away, or someone in a white coat

might come and literally carry us away!

There is a beautiful account in the New Testament told by Luke where this word *dear* is used; one of only six usages in the New Testament. It is the well known and well told account of the Centurion's Servant. Luke gives us this account in chapter 7: ¹ **Now when He** (He being Jesus) **concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum.** ² **And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die.** ³ **So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant.** ⁴ **And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving,** ⁵ **"for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue."** Luke 7:1-5

Notice the relationship between this Roman dignitary and a lowly servant. The servant was *dear* to him.

Now maybe it's just me, but that seems a strange way to refer to a person that could easily be replaced with a sweeping motion of the hand. But this Centurion apparently loved the people about him. And he apparently did not fear crossing barriers that were basically forbidden in the social realm of the day. What this message implies to us is that this was a man of incredible faith and courage. The courage may have been from his position with the Roman Government.

Possibly he had risen to a particular status that allowed him to pretty much do as he pleased with no fear of reprisal. But his faith is what captures my attention.

Again, what is faith? Faith is not believing that God can; it is knowing that He will. This person somehow seemed to know that Jesus would heal the servant. That's incredible. I do not see him using his position to threaten this new-found Miracle Worker. Notice in this passage, he sent people (Jews, not Sergeants or Corporals under his charge) to plead (beg, as it were) for Jesus to heal his *dear* servant. He did not **COMMAND!** So I see him exhibiting faith. It has been said that this kind of faith is deaf to doubt, dumb to discouragement, blind to impossibilities and knows nothing but success in God. I really like that. This man; a Gentile; Roman; the enemy to the people in Israel, seemed to understand how to *walk by faith*. Again, that sounds incredible to me because walking by faith means being prepared to trust where we are not permitted to see. Faith allows God to do for us and with us what we could never do alone. This guy understood that. He knew that if his servant was to be healed it would not be attained by bullying tactics. He could not command it to be done. This kind of faith takes us inside true faith and shows how and what faith does. And to this faith, Jesus remarked that *it was amazing*. Only twice in all of

See "WORDS" Page 3

Newsletter

Articles or information to be published in the Newsletter are due by the third Sunday of the month. Please submit to the church office.

Singers and Musicians

If you are on the monthly music schedule to sing and find you cannot do so, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. Please notify the church office of such a change. Our thanks to each of you who serve.

—The Ministries & Programming Council

When There Is A Death In The Family

If there is a death in your immediate family, (Parent, Sibling, Spouse, Child,) or in the family of a church member, please notify a member of the Benevolence Committee (listed below) so the church may send flowers and for food preparation when applicable.

—The Benevolence Committee

Mona Orr—Chair

Phyllis Belcher

Sue Ellen Fleming

Diania Murphy

Diana Mullins

“INFO” GUEST COLUMN***“The Greatest Policy Ever Sold”***

By Garland Hall

When my father retired from his career as a State Farm Agent back in 2001, it gave my family the opportunity to move back to Wise County. I grew up working in insurance and looked forward to the day that I took over the keys from my father; however nothing quite prepares you for the world of the small business owner. You quickly realize that not everyone takes your recommendations and purchases insurance policies by the handful. In a nutshell, insurance is viewed by most as a necessary evil that the state of Virginia or the Bank requires you to pay for. After all you are selling them an intangible object, something you can't really see or touch. At the end of the day it is just the promise that if something bad happens then the insurance company is going to help take care of it for you. It was at that time that God helped me to realize that I had to start focusing on the promise and help make this intangible product as tangible as I can.

I am a strong believer in Life Insurance. It is one of the times that I personally can help deliver a tangible promise made by a loved one. It can never replace the person that has passed away, but no matter what the amount it reminds the family how much they were loved. When I meet with a younger couple just getting started in life, usually the lack of extra income is the excuse for not being able to afford a policy. On the other hand, I am regularly approached by

an older client that has need for the insurance but the price has increased with their age and now it's more expensive. At this point they have to decide if the policy is worth more to them than the cost. Usually they regret not trying to find a way to have purchased it earlier in life when the cost was less. Sometimes their health has changed and it is too late for them to be able to purchase it.

Isn't this the way we approach accepting Jesus? When we are younger our health is better, we haven't started taking pills for high blood pressure and cholesterol, there are so many other things we tend to focus on. In Romans 6:21 “What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!” Becoming a Christian might mean we have to give up some of the things in our lives that seem to be important to us now, but as we mature we realize they aren't that important after all. We think in the back of our mind that one day we will finally accept Jesus as our savior, but we still have time. Unfortunately, we do not know when our appointed time is and the decision may be made for us. There is only one way to God the Father and that is through Jesus. By accepting his grace we get the greatest insurance policy in the world. In fact it is free! The premium on this policy was paid at Calvary and each one of us is named as the beneficiary of life eternal.

“WORDS” cont’d from Page 1

Scripture was Jesus said to “marvel” or be amazed. The other time was when he began his public ministry in his hometown of Nazareth, and he was rejected by his fellow Jews – “**he was amazed by their lack of faith.**” (Mark 6:6, Luke 4:14-30). The centurion had a faith that was more perceptive and sensitive than anything Jesus had witnessed in Israel. What could be more horrible than to amaze the Son of God with one’s **lack** of faith, as his own homefolk did? But what could be more thrilling than to amaze Him with one’s faith? This centurion had amazing faith!

Last week, I was in a meeting with a group of local ministers. One of my fellow pastors was talking to another fellow pastor about music. I heard him make the comment that “Ben likes music. In fact, he collects all kinds of music.” And I do. I have a broad range of favorites in many genres of music. One of these favorites is folk music and one of my all-time favorite groups to listen to is the 60’s group, The Kingston Trio. They sing a great song that is titled **Desert Pete**. **Desert Pete** tells the story of a traveler sitting down on a stump who describes his predicament as being ‘thirsty down to his toenails’. Suddenly, he spies a water pump. There on the pump is a bottle of water and

attached to the bottle is a note that explains what the traveler is to do. The water in the bottle is not for drinking, it is for **priming the pump**. Desert Pete goes on to say in the note, You’ve got to prime the pump. You must have faith and believe. You’ve got to give of yourself ‘fore you’re worthy to receive. Drink all the water you can hold. Wash your face cool your feet. Leave the bottle full for others. Thank you kindly, Desert Pete.

I think we all understand how much incredible faith it would take to pour the only water for miles down a hole with the expectancy that water would come out of this rusty old pump. This was the same faith type as that displayed by the Centurion. He very well could have been pouring his career, maybe even his life down a hole in the ground by placing his faith in this Un-known man from Galilee.

We are certainly living in some un-certain times. Seems as if we have heard this said for many years now, beginning with Hitler and World War II. Today we have Kadafi in Libya, Kim Il Sung in North Korea, [Mahmoud Ahmadinejad](#) in Iran, Tsunami’s, earthquakes, floods and our own lack of faith in local and national leaders. There are children be-

ing sexually abused and brutalized by the scores. No wonder we hear people referring to their lack of faith. We need to remember however that leaders come and go and disasters are to be expected and dealt with on a one-by-one basis, and we can do things by law to make safer environments for children, though the task seem daunting. But God never fails. God never changes. The Centurion modeled for us the faith we are to have in Christ. Desert Pete showed us a faith that can reap streams of healing and thirst quenching waters to flow if we will depend on that faith. As the song says in the *Hymnal of The Church of God*, (pg. 203) **Jesus calls us, o’er the tumult, of our life’s wild, restless sea; Day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying “Christian, follow me.”**

Heed the efforts of the Centurion, *dear friend*, and by faith, *stay on the path with Jesus*.



Sunrise Service

Easter Breakfast,

and Birthday / Anniversary Breakfast. (No Dinner)

April 24th.



Sunday School

Jillian Hall was the winner for the month of February in the Sunday School Attendance Drawing!

Congratulations Jillian!!

Easter Egg Project

Beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday April 4th and April 5th and possibly 1/2 a day on the 6th in the Fellowship Hall.

Anyone available to help please join us.

If you are available after work, we have others coming in at 4:00 and 5:00 also.

Your assistance would be appreciated!

