



STAYING CONNECTED

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MCIVOR CHURCH FAMILY

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GOD IN MY LIFE – CYNDY REGIER



I was asked to share about what God was doing in my life in relation to Sunday School. It is good to reflect on how God is moving in one's life.

I was reading this past week about the feeding of the 5000 in

the book of Mark and how Jesus multiplied the five loaves and two fish. I then read the encounter note in my Bible about that passage which says, "Jesus already knew how many loaves and fish were available. The disciples wanted to send the people away, but **Jesus instead wanted them to engage in what He was about to do. Watch to see how God invites you to engage in His work.**"

How appropriate to read that when I'm about to write about this very topic!

As I reflect on how God invites me to join Him in His work, I need to go back a few years. I heard about Chuck Missler in passing, and decided to check out a few of his Bible studies. He is an engineer and business man with a passion to study and teach the Bible. I was so thankful I did. He is incredibly insightful, pulling out small details and historical background of the text that aid in the understanding of it better. He presents thoughts on a passage, supports it from other sections of the Bible using the biblical principle of two or three witnesses (Matthew 18:16, 2 Corinthians 13:1). He also says, "Don't take my word for it. Do your own homework and come to your own conclusion."

I appreciate that.

There are three things that Missler mentioned that have shaped how I read my Bible. The first thing—which I find very interesting—is that there is no word for *coincidence* in the Hebrew language. In other

words, nothing happens by chance, which includes details mentioned in the text.

Secondly—which is closely related to the first point—he quotes Matthew 5:18, "*For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*"

A *jot* refers to the most minute letter, where a *tittle* is a small projection on certain Hebrew letters. In other words, every word or mark in Scripture has significance and meaning until all Scripture has been fulfilled.

Thirdly, Missler mentioned that the Old Testament is the New Testament concealed and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. The oldest stories in the Bible are a bit like a puzzle, where someone or something in the story is a little bit like Jesus, or points to Jesus. I find these discoveries so incredibly amazing and there are many of them.

When I read a passage I ask myself: How does this point to Jesus or where do I see Jesus in this story? What does this say about Jesus or my Christian walk?

Like I mentioned earlier, this changed my approach to reading my Bible. When I read a passage I ask myself: How does this point to Jesus or where do I see Jesus in this story? What does this say about Jesus or my Christian walk?

When the Holy Spirit opens my eyes to discover some of these connections, I find it so exciting. It's as if God is sitting beside me showing me this, drawing me close to Him. **Scripture is a living document revealing the heart of God, and everything in it points to Christ our Saviour.**

Fast forward a couple of years when Monica expressed a need for volunteers in the kids programs, specifically Sunday School and Clubs. I wanted to get involved and share my love of the Scriptures with these kids. I have always loved working with children. I taught Sunday School for

many years when my kids were small. After taking a bit of a break, and when the need arose again, I felt the nudge of the Holy Spirit telling me to get involved.

This time however, **I felt the Holy Spirit telling me to share the events of history, intentionally mentioning how God wanted a person to join Him in the task God had planned**, as opposed to just telling the story. It sounds like a small thing, but it reiterates the fact that this is God's story. He is in control. He is sovereign and He chooses to include us in His work.

Secondly, the **Holy Spirit was asking me to make the point of how the story points to Jesus**. For example, Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days, a tomb-like experience just as Jesus was in the tomb for three days. The Old Testament concealed, the New Testament revealed. Another example is Daniel, who served the King faithfully and had enemies who could not find fault with him. They had to change the laws in order to condemn him. Pilate too could find no fault with Jesus, but handed Him over to be executed. This is referred to as character types of Jesus.

I just love how **the whole Bible fits together—so many different authors, spanning thousands of years—all pointing to Christ, each account so consistent**. To me this speaks to the majesty of our God. Only God could orchestrate something like that and I love to share that with these kids.

This spring, Judy and I attended a children's ministry conference here in Winnipeg. They had David Rausch as a guest speaker. He has had much experience working with kids in Sunday School. He wrote a book where he shares some tips on teaching these kids. Judy has already read much of the book—its sounds very helpful. It's on my list to read for this summer. There were also breakout sessions. Judy and I took different ones, focusing on areas that interested us.

One of the sessions that piqued my interest was integrating apologetics into the lesson. The speaker focused on giving reasons for the authenticity of the Bible in light of so many people leaving the church as they get older. Granted, this is probably better suited for kids that are a little older. However it is possible to bring some of these thoughts down to a younger child's level, fitting it into the lesson where possible.

Another session focused on developing meaningful relationships with the kids or people that you are with. This applies not only to Sunday School, but to all those you connect with at church, or elsewhere for that matter. It was a good reminder that church is more than Sunday mornings. It's about engaging with others, loving and caring for them, supporting each other in our journeys. I want to thank you all for the opportunity that you provided for me to attend this conference.

I am grateful that God has given me this opportunity to share my love of the Scriptures with the children of our church. I pray that the lessons we prepare will be meaningful to them and give them a foundation on which to build their faith.

All this to say I'm so thankful that **God has stirred in me a desire to know Him more deeply**. I have been drawn closer to Him. **Through my studies He has revealed to me how awesome He is and the lengths that He has gone to to draw us to Himself**. It's fascinating to me how He orchestrates all things together. We truly serve an amazing God!

I am also grateful that God has given me this opportunity to share my love of the Scriptures with the younger children of our church. I love to build relationships with them and share God's story throughout history. I pray that the lessons we prepare will be meaningful to them and give them a foundation on which to build their faith.

GIVING

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