

Greetings from the "New" Galveston!

Welcome to "Pastor Kelley's Korner"!

Know of something exciting that's happened to someone? Email me and let's get the word out! krvaughan@yahoo.com

And check out my daily blog at www.kelleykorner.blogspot.com

SEASIDE COMMUNITY NEWS...

**LOVE GOD
LOVE THE FAMILY
LOVE THE WORLD**

*Psalms 127:1 says, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain."*

DINNER ON THE GROUNDS ...

This Sunday, September 15th is the third one of the month, and that means Dinner on the Grounds! Bring some food with you when you come to worship, and we'll share in a fellowship meal right after.

HANDS-ON MISSION OPPORTUNITY ...

We are once again serving food at the Jamaica Beach Craft Fair at the City Park on October 5th. This time we are serving baked potatoes and pulled pork sandwiches. Check in with Cathy and let her know that you will be there to help serve and to find out what she needs us to bring. Proceeds will go to help our Alaska missionary family, the Humphries, with expenses related to the adoption of their new son, a special needs child from Texas!

FALL FESTIVAL ...

Here's another mission opportunity coming up! October 12th is our yearly Fall Festival. This is the time we give a gift to our community in the form of games, prizes, and chili! For this one we need your presence to work the games and

greet the attendees. We also need lots of that incredible chili you make! Touch base with Lauren on this one for what she needs us to do.

BIBLE STUDY HAPPENINGS ...

Home Group Bible Study happens on Thursday nights at PK's house, around 7 p.m.

West End Community Bible Study (For ladies) on Friday mornings at Dianne Lami's house at 9:30.

Ladies' Bible Study (same material as the one on Friday) on Wednesday evenings at the church at 6:30 p.m.

And don't forget the ***Men's Bible study*** on Wednesday evenings at 7 at Bob Matthews' house,

And the ***Holy Yoga*** group on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9 at the Jamaica beach gym. See Stephanie for details on that one.

MISSIONS MINUTES ...

It is exciting to see Seaside getting excited about missions of all kinds. We already are connected with the Humphries family in Alaska. And we give a percentage of what people give to the church to the local Baptist association (*That means county-wide stuff like the block party trailer we always use and other assistance programs for local churches*). Plus we try to get involved in local mission needs as they come to our attention.

We also have another way we cooperate to do missions. The Baptist General Convention of Texas was among those who helped us out a lot after Hurricane Ike, and they were also active after Hurricane Harvey. In the last few years we have hosted the Texas Baptist Men in our retreat center for some of the training they do for feeding people in crisis areas. The BGCT also does such things as train chaplains, provide help for churches who are building, support colleges and seminaries and hospitals, pay salaries of missionaries overseas and in North America, provide retirement, disability, and survivor benefits for church staff members, and do specific missions projects in Texas and all over the world. Sounds pretty exciting, doesn't it?

A WORD FROM THE HUMPHRIES' ...

Here are a few words from Lauren ...

We live a block from our church and our school. Right before school started someone burned part of the playground at the school down and this week the church has been broken into twice. We have helped clean up the glass and make things safe. This has brought up a lot of conversations with our kids, especially because one of the teens arrested for the arson has been in our house quite a bit. Pray for us and these many kids who come over as we try to love through the hard parts.

Keep praying for the Humphries Family!

BAPTISM IN THE GULF ...

Baptism opportunities are available to you year-round at Seaside! That's one of the benefits of living on a tropical Island Paradise, right? And our first baptisms of the year will be taking place at our Easter Sunrise Service on the beach.

If you are a believer and want to take your relationship with Jesus to the next level, you are invited to join in this amazing experience in the Gulf of Mexico any time! Please let me know as soon as you can either at church or by email (pastor@seasidefamily.org) so we can get you on the docket.

TEACHING ...

SEASIDE CHURCH
1 September 2019
"make it big; keep it simple; repeat it often"
Hosea 10:1-15

<Play security blanket infomercial>

OK. How many of you had a security blanket of some kind?

What was it?

How about your kids? Can you confess for them?

My younger brother used to require two pacifiers. One to suck on and one to rub his nose with. Sometimes he would lose one or both of them, and that was a crisis of epic proportions. Mom used to pay my older brother and me 25 cents for every one we found. We may or may not have had a part in creating said crises in order to fund some venture, perhaps involving baseball cards.

One of our kids who shall remain nameless used to require one of Chris' nightgowns to rub between his fingers. He called it his "rubber sing," as in "thing to rub."

What does your security blanket have to do with anything? What business is it of ours whether you had one or not?
And who cares if you still ... never mind.

Today we are moving into the 10th chapter of Hosea, and God is still on the case of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. But first, let's pray.

Father, forgive us when we cling to security blankets of one kind or another instead of trusting you completely. In Jesus' name. Amen.

READ HOSEA 10:1-2

How has Israel done all these years with the blessing of God?

Israel has prospered under King Jeroboam II, gaining military and economic strength.

BUT ... the more prosperous the nation becomes, the more love it lavishes on idols.

What are "sacred pillars"?

Picture a sort of totem pole. A sacred pillar is carved in different shapes and dedicated to mark a spot where worship of a false god takes place.

What should they have done with the "sacred pillars" present in the land?

Deuteronomy 16:21-22 says, "Do not set up any wooden Asherah pole beside the altar you build to the Lord your God, and do not erect a sacred pillar (stone), for these the Lord your God hates."

An *Asherah* would be a wooden representation of the false goddess Asherah.

Instead of tearing them down, they added more and more pillars as they got more and more fruitful.

What does that say about who they really think is behind their fruitful harvests?

The false gods do it!

So what will God do now?

Tear them down himself!

We are kind of like that today, though, aren't we? It seems like the more God gives us, the more we think we have to spend. We want a bigger house, a better car, and finer clothes.

Let this be a warning to all of us. As you prosper, consider where your money is going. Ask yourself:

Is my money being used for God's purposes, or am I consuming it all on myself?

READ HOSEA 10:3

Uh oh. In addition to their idols, what else has Israel been trusting in?

<The king - the political system>

READ HOSEA 10:4

God is angry with the people of Israel because of their insincere promises. Nobody is keeping his word, so nobody can be trusted.

Does it ever feel that way to you ... that you just can't trust anybody?

People break their promises, but God always keeps his.

Meanwhile, consider this ... Are *you* remaining true to *your* promises, both to other people and to God? If not, ask God for forgiveness and help to get back on track.

Then be more careful about the promises you make. Never make a promise unless you are sure you can keep it.

What do you think will happen to the "security blankets" in Israel - the Asherah poles & false gods & kings & political systems?

READ HOSEA 10:5-8

Beth Aven means "house of wickedness."

This is a cutting reference to Bethel ("house of God"), a sacred site of Israel where worship of false gods now takes place.

If the Israelites' idols are really gods, they should have been able to protect the people, right?

Well, then, it's kind of ironic that here the people are fearing for their gods' safety!

READ HOSEA 10:9-10

Remember from last week what it was that happened in Gibeah that made it synonymous with cruelty and sensuality?

In a nutshell, a group of men from Gibeah, surrounded a house where a couple had stopped for the night. They demanded that the man come out so they could have sex with him. Instead, the traveler gave them his concubine. They raped and abused her all night and then left her dead on the doorstep.

And how about rebellion? What made the same town synonymous with

rebellion to the Israelites?

Gibeah was Saul's hometown, and Saul is kind of the personification of Israel's rebellion in saying they no longer wanted God as king. They wanted a human like the neighboring countries instead.

What references to farming do you see in these verses?

READ HOSEA 10:11

trained heifer ... thresh - a cow trained to walk in a circle causing a stone to move over another stone upon which harvested plants have been placed. The crushing separates the chaff from the grain.

yoke - the wooden harness placed over the cow's neck to which is attached the thresher or plow

harrow - the actual instrument with heavy teeth that is dragged over plowed land to break up clods, remove weeds and cover seeds.

So ... amidst all this farming stuff ...

READ HOSEA 10:12 - If you would just ...

sow righteousness, you would *reap kindness*. You reap what you sow!

break up fallow ground - "Fallow" is the ground that has been left alone and untilled for a growing season. Breaking it up gets it ready for planting.

If they will break up the hard ground of their hearts, as well as seek the Lord, then he will *rain righteousness!*

Hosea envisions a plowed field, earth that is ready to receive seeds. It is no longer stony and hard; it has been carefully prepared, and it is available.

Does that describe you right now?

Is your life ready for God to work in it?

Or is this what you look like ...

READ HOSEA 10:13a

You have plowed wickedness - so you *reaped injustice*. Remember ... You reap what you sow!

You have eaten the fruit of lies - you're picking and eating the wrong fruit! You have fallen for the lies of Satan!

So how do I go about breaking through this unplowed, hard ground that is my heart right now?

- 1) Acknowledge your sins. That's called confession.
- 2) Receive God's forgiveness and guidance.

You can do that right now. Pray something like this:

God I admit that I sin.

Here's a specific one or two (*you list your own!*).

I receive your forgiveness, even though I know I don't deserve it.

Please guide me from here on out. Amen.

READ HOSEA 10:13b

numerous warriors – Here's the lie that the Israelites trusted in: the lie that military power can keep them safe.

Believers today are also capable of falling for lies. We are surrounded by lies! In fact, do you want to know how to lie effectively?

Just follow these three *Rules for Effective Lying*:

- 1) Make it big
- 2) Keep it simple
- 3) Repeat it often.

So how do I avoid falling for lies?

Ask yourself these questions:

- 1) Am I believing this because there is personal gain in it for me?
- 2) Am I ignoring important facts?
- 3) Does this conflict with a direct command of Scripture?
- 4) Are there any Biblical parallels to the situation I'm facing that would help me know what to believe?

READ HOSEA 10:14

Some say Shalman was Shalmaneser, king of Assyria; others say Shalman was Salmanu, a Moabite king mentioned in the inscriptions of Tiglath-Pileser. Whichever one it was historically, this Shalman had invaded Gilead around 740 B.C. and destroyed the city of Beth Arbel, killing many people, including women and children. This kind of cruelty was not uncommon in ancient warfare. Hosea is saying that this kind of cruelty will be Israel's fate.

READ HOSEA 10:15

Because Israel has put its confidence in military might rather than in God, it will be destroyed by ... (drumroll here) ... military might.

And Israel's king, who continues to lead the people into idol worship, will be the first to fall.

Divine judgment is *sometimes* swift, but it is *always* sure.

OK. Deep breath. Second week in a row that the message from God to Israel has

been pretty intense and highly discouraging.

And for the second week in a row, I am going to end up with the good news. Be glad, folks! We are living on the other side of the Jesus event! Why is that such a big deal? Well, it's because it makes it easier for us to see past the warnings and gloom and doom of the prophets into the astounding result of God's great love!

It looks like this ...

A LOOK AT SALVATION ...

You need to understand that God loves you more than you could ever know. He wants to be in a personal, love relationship with you. However, we most certainly have proven that we have a problem. The Bible calls it sin, and sin keeps us from having that relationship. Simply put, God will not tolerate sin. It has to do with his nature of perfect justice. And the problem worsens because there is nothing we can do to take care of it. Quite a dilemma.

But God is, after all, God. He knew we would have that problem, so because of his great love for us, he said, "I'll take care of it. I'll do what is necessary." And what was that? Somehow God became a man - Jesus. He lived a perfect life. He died. And he rose from the dead. And because of that perfect sacrifice he made, our problem with sin is taken care of. It is now possible once again for us to have a personal, love relationship with God, with Jesus.

But wait. Remember that he wants the relationship to be one of love. He proved his love for us when he took the biggest risk of all in creating us - he gave us the right to choose to love him back. It was the only way for love to have any real meaning. So now you must choose. Will you love God back?

The best way to understand it is to follow the relationship idea. How did you start every relationship you have ever had? By talking, right? It's the same with God. That's all prayer is, anyway - just talking to God. You can say something like this: *"Jesus, I know I sin and I'm sorry. I believe your life and death and resurrection takes care of that problem in me. Best I know how, I want to turn away from that and turn to you. Come into my life and take over. You be the Boss. I choose to love you back. Amen."*

So did you pray it? Have *you* believed and confessed Jesus?

Your next step is to tell someone about it. It is an important enough decision that you need to be held accountable for it. That's what baptism does, by the way. It's a way to tell everyone that you have a new relationship with Jesus. And because it is a relationship, you will need to work at it.

Here are the discipleship basics according to Jesus:

1) Love God:

Read the Bible - learn his story (**Discipleship**). Who is this guy you are committing yourself to follow?

Worship – appreciate God for who he is. Pray – talk to him. Listen to him.

2) Love people:

Church – hang out with others who already know him (**Fellowship**). Learn from them. Receive encouragement from them. Learn to worship from them and do it with them.

Ministry – find a place of service so you can try out this new life you are beginning. Get outside of yourself and do things for other people.

Evangelism – learn how to point people to Jesus. Build relationships with people who don't know Jesus.

LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER? ...

Here's another opportunity for ministry ... If any of you Seasideers would be interested in doing some volunteer secretarial-type stuff (like making phone calls and entering new member information into our records and taking notes at discernment meetings), please let me know. Email me at pastor@seasidefamily.org or let me know on Sunday.

SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCES ...

No better time than right now to get started in a regular *small group Bible study* experience. Here are the ones going right now at Seaside:

Men's Bible Study meets at the Matthews home on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Check with Bob Matthews for details.

Home Group happens on Thursday nights at PK's house, around 7 p.m. We will start back up on August 15th

West End Community Bible Study (For ladies) on Friday mornings at 9:30 at Dianne Lami's house.

Ladies' Bible Study (same material as the one on Friday) on Wednesday evenings at the church at 6:30. See Dianne for further details.

Holy Yoga meets at 9:00 Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at the Jamaica Beach Gym. See Stephanie for details.

FAMILY MINISTRIES ...

God just keeps on bring kids our way, so we have a responsibility to touch them in ministry. Do you know of someone who is called to work with children and/or youth? Is it you?! Let me know where you have been called to serve and I'll help get you equipped to obey your Lord and follow your passion right here at Seaside!

RETREAT CENTER INFO ...

The Seaside Church Mission Outreach and Retreat Center at Jamaica Beach, on the West end of Galveston, has bunk/shower and kitchen facilities for groups of up to 60 available. This is a ministry of our church and operates on offerings only, in order to maintain the facility. Summers book up quickly, but we have the facility available all year. This is perfect for youth groups, camps, bible schools, special classes, and mission groups. This would also be a great place for a family reunion/retreat during Holidays and weekends throughout the year. Contact us now to reserve dates by email at babandamber@gmail.com or pastor@seasidefamily.org.

COMING "STUFF" ...

SEPTEMBER ...

1 - **WORSHIP** - 10 a.m.

2 - **LABOR DAY**

4 - Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the JB gym

Ladies' Bible Study at the church - 6:30 p.m.

Men's Bible study at Bob Matthews' house - 7 p.m.

5 - Home Group Bible Study at PK's house - 7 p.m.

6 - **West End Community Bible Study** (For ladies) at Lami's house - 9:30 a.m.

Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the JB gym

7- AA - 7 p.m.

8 - **WORSHIP** - 10 a.m.

9 - Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the JB gym

11 - Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the JB gym

Ladies' Bible Study at the church - 6:30 p.m.

Men's Bible study at Bob Matthews' house - 7 p.m.

12 - Home Group Bible Study at PK's house - 7 p.m.

13 - **West End Community Bible Study** (For ladies) at Lami's house - 9:30 a.m.

Holy Yoga - 10:00 a.m. at the JB gym

14 - AA - 7 p.m.

15 - **WORSHIP** - 10 a.m.

DINNER ON THE GROUNDS

- 16 - Holy Yoga – 10:00 a.m. at the JB gym
- 18 - Holy Yoga – 10:00 a.m. at the JB gym
 - Ladies' Bible Study at the church – 6:30 p.m.
 - Men's Bible study at Bob Matthews' house - 7 p.m.
- 19 - NO Home Group Bible Study at PK's house – 7 p.m.
- 19-21 - ***Trip to Glen Rose***
- 20 - ***West End Community Bible Study (For ladies)*** at Lami's house – 9:30 a.m.
 - Holy Yoga – 10:00 a.m. at the JB gym
- 21 - AA – 7 p.m.
- 22 - ***WORSHIP*** – 10 a.m.
- 23 - Holy Yoga – 10:00 a.m. at the JB gym
- 25 - Holy Yoga – 10:00 a.m. at the JB gym
 - Ladies' Bible Study at the church – 6:30 p.m.
 - Men's Bible study at Bob Matthews' house - 7 p.m.
- 26 - Home Group Bible Study at PK's house – 7 p.m.
- 27 - ***West End Community Bible Study (For ladies)*** at Lami's house – 9:30 a.m.
 - Holy Yoga – 10:00 a.m. at the JB gym
- 28- AA – 7 p.m.
- 29 - ***WORSHIP*** – 10 a.m.
- 30 - Holy Yoga – 10:00 a.m. at the JB gym

SEASIDE BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH ...

SEPTEMBER ...

- 3 - *Skyler LaBuff*
- 8 - *Joseph DiCecco*
- 10 - *John Weldon*
- 15 - *Patsy Bell*
 - Amy Mathis*
- 17 - *Mari Mathis*
 - Valerie McElhose*
- 19 - *Alice Davis*
- 24 - *Christi Vaughan*
 - Russell Rupertus*
- 29 - *Bob Wyrick*
- 30 - *Jimmy Stone*
 - Monica Thomas*

CHECK THIS OUT ...

Unless we have adopted the discipline of simplicity, we either fall prey to materialism (in which we must have “things” to be happy) or we fall prey to legalism (in which we consider “things” bad). Both are wrong.

From: New Christian's Handbook by Max Anders

PASTORAL PRAYER:

Father, forgive us when we cling to security blankets of one kind or another instead of trusting you completely. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I love you, Family!

Pastor Kelley