

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 <http://kelleykorner.blogspot.com>

SEASIDE COMMUNITY NEWS...

*LOVE GOD
LOVE THE FAMILY
LOVE THE WORLD*

Colossians 1:13 says, *"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves."*

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SINGALONG ...

On Sunday, December 6th at 5:30 here at the church (*under the building*), we will be having a community Christmas singalong. We are inviting the community to join us in singing Christmas songs (*led by Jim and his Salty Sounds Band*). We'll have hot chocolate (*or something cold if it is hot out!*) and Christmas cookies. Everyone is encouraged to bring along a new unwrapped toy to be donated to the Galveston Urban Ministries Christmas toy store (*Check out more about that below*). Come on out for some great fun!

MINISTRY ACTION ... G.U.M. TOY STORE ...

It is time once again for the Galveston Urban Ministries annual toy drive for their toy store. Here's a statement about their intent:

Christmas is difficult for parents living in poverty...

Their children hope for a colorful bike, hot new video game or the cool toy every kid is talking about. Yet for parents struggling to make ends meet, the holidays often add worry and despair to an already stressful life.

G.U.M. created the Christmas Toy Store to **strengthen families** by replacing despair with dignity. Parents work within their budget to choose the gifts their children want at a price the family can afford. The store follows GUM's "hand-up

rather than hand-out" philosophy and it makes for a very Merry Christmas indeed.

Seaside has been a part of this ministry action for several years now. You can pick up a toy or two next time you are out shopping and bring it here to the church. Or you can go to the G.U.M. website and click on the link to their Amazon wish list. You can also contribute money to the effort, either through Seaside or online at the G.U.M. website. But do it soon! The store is open the first part of December, so we only have a few Sundays to get the toys in.

FINDING SEASIDE ONLINE ...

Still planning to worship from home? That's great! Join us for ***SEASIDE ONLINE!*** It's really easy. All you have to do is go to the Seaside Church FaceBook page at 10 a.m. on Sunday and you will see us there.

ON YOUR GIVING ...

During this season of Online Existence, remember that we still have bills to pay that we have committed to as an organization. We do not have an online giving option right now, but you can still be regular in your giving in several ways. If you can't come on Sunday morning, please feel free to mail it to the church. We'll be checking our mailbox regularly. The address there is: 5435 Jamaica Beach, Galveston, TX 77554.

Or you can drop it off at my house or at Cathy's over in Sea Isle. Contact me at pastor@seasidefamily.org for the addresses.

SMALL GROUP HAPPENINGS ...

Here are our small group regular times, but check with the leaders for details.

West End Community Bible Study (For ladies) on Friday mornings at the church worship center at 10. <<Check with Dianne for Zoom details if you prefer>>

Men's Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 7 at Bob Matthews' house. <<See Bob for details>>

Home Group Bible Study - Thursday evenings at PK's house at 7 p.m. <<See PK or Chris for details>>

ACTIVITIES NOTES ...

Holy Yoga classes at the church - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:30 a.m.
<<See Stephanie for details>>

A WORD FROM THE HUMPHRIES' ...

Here's a word from Lauren:

Lauren shared this:

The family who was going to host the teen decided they couldn't do it. After some awesome God work we have a new single lady who is interested! The teen is rightfully nervous though. Pray she is still willing to try to get to a safe place. pray for our meeting that this teen and this women connect.

Let's pray.

Father, please be involved in this situation. Invade the situation! Bring just the right person into this young lady's life at just the right time. In Jesus' name. Amen.

KEEP PRAYING FOR THE HUMPHRIES FAMILY!

MORE 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. 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. 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*). We also give to the Baptist General Convention of Texas. That group 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?

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?

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 in the comments during SEASIDE ONLINE or by email (pastor@seasidefamily.org) so we can get you on the docket.

TEACHING ...

**SEASIDE CHURCH
29 November 2020
"Overcoming Fear with Hope" 1 Samuel 18:12-16**

Anybody here used to be afraid of the dark? Any idea why?

What are some things people are scared of?

COVID! OK, we got that one out of the way.

What else?

Teachers	Spiders	
Snakes	Clowns	
Roaches	Rats	
Scary dogs	Yellow jackets	
Being dependent	Being alone	Silence

Top Eleven Most Common Phobias:

The Dark-Nyctophobia	Water-Hydrophobia
Flying-Aviophobia	Failure-Atychiphobia
Heights-Acrophobia	Closed Spaces-Claustrophobia
Clowns-Coulrophobia	Open Spaces-Agoraphobia
Death-Thanatophobia	Snakes-Ophidiophobia
Public Speaking-Glossophobia	

How do you deal with fear - laugh it off? Scream?

Fear. Fear. Fear. Fear is everywhere. And everybody has had an experience with fear at one time or another.

Today I want to read a passage from 1 Samuel. It mentions the fear that takes over King Saul's life. Let's read it:

1 Samuel 18:12-16

12 Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with David but had left Saul. 13 So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns. 14 In everything he did he had great success, because the Lord was with him. 15 When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him. 16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.

So why is Saul afraid?

1. Saul is afraid because the Lord has left him – Here's a totally valid fear ... being without God! If you don't have a personal relationship with Jesus today, you have a reason to be afraid. Without that relationship you cannot know for sure that you have eternal life and that you'll go to heaven when you die. With it, you don't have to be afraid even of death! That's such a big deal, I have to tell you how to get that taken care of right now!

1) God loves you and wants to have a personal relationship with you

2) But you have a problem that prevents that from happening. You sin. And God won't be around sin. It forms a barrier between you and God.

3) It gets worse. There is nothing you can do to get rid of that barrier. Trying harder, doing good things, volunteering ... you just can't be good enough.

4) But God knew that would be the case. So he said, "I'll take care of it."

Somehow he became a man – Jesus. He lived a perfect life, died and rose from the dead. That's what had to happen to break down that sin wall.

5) Now it's possible for you to have a relationship with God again. BUT ... he really wants it to be a LOVE relationship. And for LOVE to have any meaning, there has to be a choice involved. God went first. He chose to love you by dying for you. Now he gives you the choice whether to love him back or not. That's what it means to become a Christian.

6) Choosing to love is obviously a relationship kind of decision, so how do you start any relationship? You start talking! And that's all prayer is. Talk to God right now. Say something like this:

"God, I want to have a relationship with you. I know I sin and I'm sorry. Best I know how, I want to turn away from that and to you. I believe what you did when you were Jesus was for me. I want to love you back. Come into my life and just take over. In Jesus' name. Amen.

7) Did you pray a prayer like that for the first time today? Your next step is to tell someone about it. It's that big a deal. Tell whoever you are with right now. Or post it in the comments. Or let me know. I'll get really excited.

Why is Saul afraid?

2. Saul is afraid because the Lord is with David – Here's a reason for fear that may seem a little strange at first ... being jealous of what someone else has.

How can jealousy cause fear?

Saul's answer would go something like this: "If David keeps winning battles, the people will like him more than me ... *My status is at risk.*"

That sounds oddly familiar on a more personal level. Anybody ever watch the old Smothers Brothers TV show? **What line did they make famous that rings true in quite a few families?**

"Mother always liked you best."

But Saul takes it to another level: "If David gets more popular than me, the people will want him to be king ... *My position is at risk.*"

Before my wife's mother died, we had ongoing "Favored Grandson Wars" among my sons.

Who is "in good" with Granny right now?

"I visited her last." "Well, I emailed her pictures of my kid."

And the funny thing is, the mostly good-natured joking has continued. Check out the mug I received from one of my sons <<Show "favorite child" mug>>. My problem is, I can't remember which one of my boys gave it to me. Why? Because they all claim it!

So, why is Saul afraid?

Here's the bottom line.

Saul is afraid because of what people think.

Here's one more reason for fear ... being others-driven.

Have you ever been worried about what *other* people would think of you if you said something or wore something or did something?

So fear is everywhere! We can't escape it! What should we do? OK. Over the next four Sundays – Advent – we are going to look at:

How To Overcome Fear

Now there are some preliminary things you need to take care of - some practical issues.

Do you feel paralyzed by fear?

1. *Determine the Cause:*

See a doctor! Find out if there's a physical cause. Is there a family pattern? Are there "triggers" in your diet, conversations, thoughts, relationships, TV programs, seasons, weather? Was there a traumatic experience in your past that establishes your fear today?

I'm not a psychiatrist or psychologist or super-trained counselor, but sometimes it really does help to check out with one of these guys. And ... it's OK. You'll still be OK. God will still love you and so will ... well, Mr. Bob!

2. *Use Appropriate Tools:*

Most fear problems developed over years and may take years to fully resolve. While you're working toward the solution, you may need tools to help manage and control the problem. These tools could range from a prescription for the most severe cases of phobia, to mental discipline, diet, exercise and relaxation techniques for the most common fear problems.

About 2,000 years ago, a guy named Saul of Tarsus offered this tool for dealing with anxiety:

"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things (Philippians 4:8)

And if you continue to the next verse you will find this:

...and the God of peace will be with you."

3. *Receive the Solution:*

Be cautious about anyone who claims they can solve a serious fear problem in a matter of days or weeks, with a book, pill, or seminar. These things are fine for learning management techniques to treat the symptoms. But, unless your problem is caused by a vitamin deficiency or something similar, science has little to offer in the way of a cure. But the good news is, we don't have to rely totally on science.

Fear can have many causes. If the solutions you're being offered only manage the symptoms, keep looking.

Today we had to get some background in on fear itself, but the first way to overcome fear at its root is through ... Hope.

Play song, "High Hopes."

Ah, Hope. What a great concept. Let's do a little hoping together. Fill in the blank, "I hope _____."

We use the word hope in all kinds of ways. "*I hope it snows on Christmas Eve in Galveston.*" Now it has happened. Once. But you and I have no control over the weather. Hoping it snows is nothing more than wishful thinking.

Is hope wishful thinking in the face of all that we can't control?

How about, "*I hope I win the lottery.*"

OK. 528 million bucks sounds pretty good, right? You might win it; it's possible, even though it is really unlikely for that to happen.

But is hope a hankering after what is extremely unlikely?

How about, "*I hope we'll soon learn to get along together, and class hostility, social conflict, political tension, and financial exploitation will soon be a thing of the past.*"

Anyone who speaks this way is most naïve concerning human nature and utterly ignorant of human history.

Is hope childlike naïveté with respect to our nature and inexcusable ignorance with respect to our history?

What is hope?

For Christians **hope is a future certainty grounded in a present reality.** And our present reality is the faithfulness of God!

God's faithfulness is marked out by major landmarks (promises he has kept) in his involvement with his people. One such landmark is Israel's release from bondage in Egypt and its deliverance at the *Red Sea*.

Another landmark is *Joshua's* leading the same people into the long-promised land.

Obviously, another landmark is the *coming of Jesus* into the world to live a perfect life, die, and rise from the dead. Here all the promises of God find their fulfillment.

You probably have some God-landmarks in your own personal God-story.

Take an honest look at your life and identify them. What were the key events and who were the key people who had a part in directing you toward God?

Write them down. Thank God for them ... even the bad stuff. And save your little piece of paper so you can revisit it from time to time.

There are two aspects to the present reality of God's faithfulness:

1. One is what God has done for us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead;

2. The other is what God has done in us as the Holy Spirit has soaked us in the Father's love again and again.

That's real. That's now. That's why believers can look to the future with great anticipation and excitement. We've seen what he can do.

He changed us; he can change anyone!

He touches us; he can touch anyone.

He's real.

He's powerful.

He's different from us.

He's holy. He's set apart.

How does hope help me to overcome fear in my life?

Here's a statement of faith I have made a part of my life. Make it part of yours as well.

Based on the landmarks of God in my life - those things he has been faithful to do in the past:

1. I have assurance that he is able to accomplish what needs to be accomplished in the future,

(Philippians 1:6 says, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.),

2. I can walk through difficult times knowing that there is an end to the madness, that joy does come in the morning (1 John 4:4 says, *Greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world.*)

3. I can see a reason for my existence, a purpose for my life

(Ephesians 2:8-10 says, For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.).

Hope may not seem like a big help to you right now. Your fears may require a different solution, and we'll move on to some of the other possibilities next week.

But hope sure made a difference in my life. It invaded the world of hopelessness and depression I lived in when I was a senior in high school. It turned on a light switch and made it possible for me to encounter Jesus as real and personal. I'm not sure where I was headed back then, but I sure wouldn't trade the life I have had for anything else.

And it can be yours.

A FURTHER 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.

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" ...

DECEMBER ...

- 2 - Holy Yoga at the church - 9:30 a.m.
Men's Bible study at Bob Matthews' house - 7 p.m.
- 3 - Home Group Bible Study at PK's house - 7 p.m.
- 4 - West End Community Bible Study (*For ladies*) the church - 9:30 a.m.
Holy Yoga at the church - 9:30 a.m.
Memorial Service for Jennifer Holt - Citymark Church - 6 p.m.
- 5 - AA - 7 p.m.
- 6 - ***SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT***
Worship - 10 a.m.
Seaside Online - 10 a.m.
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SINGALONG AND TOY DRIVE - 6 p.m.
- 7 - Holy Yoga at the church - 9:30 a.m.
- 9 - Holy Yoga at the church - 9:30 a.m.
Men's Bible study at Bob Matthews' house - 7 p.m.

- 10 - Home Group Bible Study at PK's house - 7 p.m.
 11 - West End Community Bible Study (*For ladies*) the church - 9:30 a.m.
 Holy Yoga at the church - 9:30 a.m.
 12 - AA - 7 p.m.
 13 - **THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
 Worship - 10 a.m.
 Seaside Online - 10 a.m.
 14 - Holy Yoga at the church - 9:30 a.m.
 16 - Holy Yoga at the church - 9:30 a.m.
 Men's Bible study at Bob Matthews' house - 7 p.m.
 17 - All-Church Christmas Party - 7 p.m.
 18 - West End Community Bible Study (*For ladies*) the church - 9:30 a.m.
 Holy Yoga at the church - 9:30 a.m.
 19 - AA - 7 p.m.
 20 - **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
 Worship - 10 a.m.
 Seaside Online - 10 a.m.
 24 - **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - 6 p.m.**
 25 - **CHRISTMAS DAY!!**
 26 - AA - 7 p.m.
 27 - *Worship - 10 a.m.*
 Seaside Online - 10 a.m.

SEASIDE BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH ...

DECEMBER ...

- 4 - Shawn Porsche
 5 - Jachin Vaughan
 11 - Mikayla Vajdak
 12 - Margie St. John
 13 - Cathy Duncan
 18 - Ella Almrud
 20 - Jamie Walker
 Elliott Humphries
 26 - Kelly Curry
 27 - Jeremiah Redman
 29 - Aidan Jefferies
 31 - Bob Batten

CHECK THIS OUT ...

A Mega-Personality Profile (Nine Things You Can Be Absolutely Sure of About God)

1. **God is eternal.** He is not defined by time. He always was; He always will be. There was never a time when He did not exist; there will never be a time when he will not exist.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God (Psalm 90:2).

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of yteh earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom (Isaiah 40:28).

2. **God is holy.** He is righteous. No fault is found in Him. His moral character is without flaw. In the nmeegative context, He has no evil in him; in the positive context, He is completely pure. In other words, He is wholly holy.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory (Isaiah 6:3).

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy" (1 Peter 1:15-16).

3. **God doesn't change.** He is "immutable" – the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. And he cannot be changed. Talk about Mr. Dependable!

I the Lord do not change (Malachi 3:6).

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows (James 1:17).

4. **God is infinite.** He cannot be completely defined or in any way confined.

But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you (1 Kings 8:27).

"I am the Alpha nd the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8).

<<MORE TO COME ... >>

From: Knowing God 101 by Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz

PASTORAL PRAYER: Father, thank you for Hope and for the sense of anticipation and wonder it brings. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

I love you, Family!

Pastor Kelley