

Journey News

A publication of Journey Church of Clinton, Iowa

Release

BY SENIOR PASTOR TOM LOYOLA

I do not often use the phrase, “God told me.” In fact, I have been very hesitant over the years of my journey with Jesus to use those words at all. I have seen those words abused, spoken as a way to justify one’s own decisions or as a way to try to influence someone else to do something.

Besides that, I am firmly convinced that the most authoritative message from God to us today is the Bible. It is His Word. That’s what we need to pay most attention to. For the believer in Jesus, everything—thoughts, decisions, circumstances, desires ... *everything*—is to be evaluated and guided in light of the Bible. My thoughts and feelings are fickle and unreliable; God’s Word is sure.

That being said, there are occasions when God does speak to me. Those occasions are not frequent, but they are very impactful. They are messages personalized to my situation at that moment. God might communicate them to me in different ways: through His Word, through people, and, sometimes, through my own thoughts. However, fear of mistaking my own thoughts for God’s words has made me extremely wary of interpreting some thought as God speaking to me.

So how do I know when it is God speaking to me internally, that is, through a thought that arises in my mind? That is a difficult question. Here are some answers that I consider important: First, it does not contradict what God has clearly said in the Bible. Second, it is usually a thought which

is out of character from how I usually think. It gets my attention because it is “alien” in some way. Third, I do not immediately come to the conclusion that God is behind that thought. I hold it loosely while I think about it and look at it from various angles. Sometimes I will share it with my godly wife to see what she thinks. I wait before I conclude that God said something to me.

I have learned as well that even when it is indeed God speaking to me, I may not understand at first what He is saying. So, again, waiting and reflecting are important to me in trying to discern what God is doing.

Having said all that, may I now share with you one of those experiences, one of the few times when God spoke to me subjectively, when He gave me a message through a thought which just spontaneously surfaced in my mind?

A number of years ago I went for a leisurely walk on a Monday afternoon. I was going through a very difficult time then, one filled with many heavy pressures. I was experiencing tremendous internal struggle. Well, I had not gone 10 feet down the sidewalk from my driveway when a word popped into my mind. Just one, solitary word: “release.”

That immediately caught my attention because it was so unusual. In fact, I wondered if that be a word from the Lord. And, it sounded initially like a very welcome word, like God was saying

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CALENDAR

Oct. 4	Parent Cue Meeting
Oct. 7	Communion
Oct. 14	Baptism
Oct. 18	M&Ms
Oct. 20	MOH Fall Service Day
Oct. 31	Halloween
Nov. 4	Annual Business Meeting Daylight Savings Ends
Nov. 10	Outreach Training
Nov. 15	M&Ms
Nov. 18	Thanksgiving Program & Dinner
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving, Office Closed
Nov. 23	Office Closed
Nov. 30	Favorite Things Party

Release continued

BY SENIOR PASTOR TOM LOYOLA

He was going to change my circumstances in a way that would relieve me of what was weighing so heavily upon me. However, having already learned (the hard way) that even when God does speak I may not understand what He is saying, I was cautious. I waited before I came to conclusions. I did not dismiss that experience, however, as some random, meaningless event. I waited, watched, and thought. I would like to say I prayed—hopefully I did—but I don't specifically remember that.

Well, my difficult circumstances did not change. However, God used some divinely-timed conversations with other believers to help me think differently about "release." It became clearer over time that rather than changing my situation, God was beginning to release me from some of the ways I thought, felt, and responded to that situation. "Release" was not *external*, the change of my circumstances, but *internal*, the change of my mind and heart. I began to see that God was releasing me from that nasty compulsion of trying to be in control of everything, from feeling like I *had* to make things work, to make things come out right ... and, of course, "work" and "right" meant how I thought they should come out.

Put another way, God began to release me into the freedom of His gracious sovereignty. He, alone, is in control. I do have responsibilities, which I do need to discharge as faithfully and effectively as I can, but I am NOT in control.

Now, please do not think I am fully released from all those sinful and broken ways of functioning. I wish! No, that will not happen until I see Jesus. But God is working, graciously and powerfully. Every so often I can see a new facet of His work of release in my life. And I am so grateful.

So now, during my personal prayer times, I will often say, "Thank you, Father, for speaking the word 'release' into my heart. Please continue to release me through the powerful work of your Son, Jesus."

Would you pray that for me, too? Thank you!

Parent Cue Meeting

BY/FROM JOY LOWER & NATE JOHNSON

Parents/guardians of all students Kindergarten through High School are invited to Parent Cue Night on Thursday, October 4 from 6:00-7:00 pm. We will be learning about some of the parent resources available through our Orange curriculum, designed to help YOU as you raise your children to know and follow Jesus. Refreshments will be provided!

Men of Honor Service Day

Men of Honor's Service Day is Saturday, October 20 from 8:00 am—Noon, starting with coffee & donuts in the Fellowship Hall before going to jobsites. All who can lend a hand and assist are appreciated and welcome to help! If you are in need of some help with small chores, please contact Men of Honor's Co-Leader Daryl Yoder at 563-259-2090.

CELEBRATE OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Happy Birthday!

3 Liam Gordon
5 Dondeena Giddings
6 Nora Brown
7 Jeremy Overberg
John McClung
Nathan Johnson
8 Al Robinson
Britain Haas
Daryl Yoder
9 Carol Simpson
10 Julie Eggers
11 Karen Martensen
Roger Rieke

13 Sean Hansen
15 Annette Eslick
Jenna Martin
19 Nathaniel (Lower)
Pat Parsons
24 Alice Peters
27 Alecca Gray
Becky Pluister
30 Amber Eslick

Happy Anniversary!

10 John & Kate Foster
16 Tom & Norma Jones

REMINDER!

M&Ms, our Senior Adult Ministry, meets October 18 at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall! Good food from great cooks! Hope to see you there!

LIFE GROUPS

SUNDAY Adult Life Groups

- Foundations** Sr. Pastor Tom Loyola
mixed, Room D
- Logos** Larry Cornelius
mixed, Room F
- Yadah Yada** Daryl Yoder & Mike Ketelsen
mixed, Room E
- Daughters of the King** Sue Ann Loyola
women, Room S
- Honoring Christ** Gary Fier
men, Room U
- Living Stones** Scott Smith
young marrieds, Room C

SUNDAY Student Life Groups

- Middle School Boys** Hans Hinrichsen
Room Y
- Middle School Girls** Corrine Sheets
Room Z
- High School** Brad & Cheri Hirl
Room W

TUESDAY Adult Life Groups

- Daughters of the King** Sue Ann Loyola
women, Room E, 10:30 am
- Men of Honor** Dan Liedtke
men, Room F, 6:45 pm

WEDNESDAY Adult Life Group

- Ignite** John & Patricia McClung
young adults, Room W [Wednesday PM during Awana]



Outreach Journey!
BY ASSISTANT PASTOR JOHN MCCLUNG

Every Christian has an evangelism temperature—an outreach temperature. It’s about the condition of the heart and the passion to see others as Jesus does.

On a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being “Ice Cold” to 10 being “Sizzling Hot”, where would you place yourself on that scale for reaching people for Jesus? Now what would it take to raise that temperature just one degree? If you are a 2, how do you become a 3? If you are a 6, how do you become a 7?

That’s what Outreach Journey is all about—to help the Christian raise their outreach temperature and reach others for Christ!

The Outreach Team has formed and will be meeting monthly. At these meetings, the team will plan outreach opportunities for you to participate in. They will help train and equip you in personal evangelism. They will encourage you and provide opportunities for you to share about your own personal outreach experiences.

The Outreach Team is always looking for ideas to connect with the community and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others. If you have an idea, or you would like to join the Outreach Team, please contact Pastor John. Let’s raise our outreach temperature together as we journey with Jesus!

MISSIONS

Missionary Matching

FROM THE MISSIONS LEAD TEAM

Although some individuals are called to be sent as missionaries, we are all involved in missions, if not by going, by supporting and sending. October 14—November 11 is our Missions emphasis month. Many of our missionaries will be highlighted during that time. As a church family you are encouraged to pray for them, contact and connect with them. How familiar are you with the missionaries and organizations you support through Journey Church? Take the matching quiz below and test yourself.

Missionaries we support:

- ___ 1. Curt and Marla Bender
- ___ 2. Ross and Mary Hunter
- ___ 3. J and A
- ___ 4. J Ray Baker
- ___ 5. Bruce and Marti Brumfield
- ___ 6. Patricia Harris
- ___ 7. Josh and Jen Duey
- ___ 8. Mark and Carol Doss
- ___ 9. Kyle and Carrie Eipperle
- ___ 10. Barb Raab
- ___ 11. Brian and Robyn Wallace
- ___ 12. Kay Baker

Organizations we support:

- ___ 1. Grace Global Partners
- ___ 2. Brook of Hope.
- ___ 3. Victory Center Ministries
- ___ 4 The Pregnancy Center
- ___ 5. Unity Christian School
- ___ 6. Habitat for Humanity

Missionary ministry:

- A. Serves educational needs of children of missionaries.
- B. Oversees the use of radio to advance the gospel worldwide
- C. A theologian teaches and writes about Christian apologetics
- D. Assists thousands of AWANA volunteers
- E. Church planting ministry in Iowa and SE South Dakota
- F. Strives to connect college students with Jesus Christ
- G. Developed Russian and Ukrainian prayer guides.
- H. Ministers to inmates on Death Row through letters.
- I. Equips Ecuadorian pastors in Biblical Training
- J. Team leaders training interns in Africa in Muslim ministry
- K. Directs Quito, Ecuador Dump Program serving the poor
- L. Writes letters sharing the gospel to imprisoned women

Ministry:

- A. Works in partnership with individuals needing housing
- B. Home for vulnerable street boys in Maai Mahiu, Kenya
- C. Assists churches to equip untrained pastors in India
- D. Has provided Christian education since 1921
- E. Assists the homeless with food, housing and Bible training
- F. Assists and trains women that benefits the life of the unborn

How did you do? Answers can be found in the recent 2019 missionary directory. We all have a role in spreading the gospel and making disciples for Jesus Christ AND we are not alone. Jesus says, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Therefore, Go, Make, Baptize and Teach! Matt.28:19,20

MONTH

Oct 14 - Nov 11

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

BY JOAN LOGAN FOR THE MISSIONS LEAD TEAM

The Missions Lead Team will again be promoting the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. The shoeboxes and "How to Pack Your Shoebox" pamphlets will be available in the lobby beginning Sunday, October 14. **The filled boxes need to be returned by Sunday, November 11.** A \$9 donation is critical to cover shipping and other project costs. You can put money in the envelope included in the pamphlet and place it inside the shoebox. An option is to give online through Follow You Box and discover the destination of your shoebox. Please pay special attention to items that should not be included which are listed in the pamphlet. These items will be a waste of your money because they will be removed from the boxes at the processing centers before being shipped.

This year is the 25th anniversary of Operation Christmas Child. Since 1993 Samaritan's Purse has distributed 157 million shoeboxes to children in more than 100 countries around the world. For many children it will be the first gift they have ever received. After receiving the shoeboxes, boys and girls are invited to enroll in the Greatest Journey, a 12-lesson discipleship program where children learn to faithfully follow Jesus and share their faith with others. The Greatest Journey is one of the largest discipleship movements in the world, and we at Journey Church have the great privilege of being a part of it through something as simple as a shoebox. And most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your shoebox.



Short Term Mission Opportunity: Samaritan's Purse

The Missions Lead Team is organizing a trip to the Twin Cities to work on-site at Samaritan's Purse Warehouse to prepare shipments of collected shoeboxes. There are a limited amount of spaces (up to 5 more people) available. The trip is being planned for December 6, 7, & 8. You would work several shifts on the assembly line packing shoeboxes for shipment to other countries. If you are interested in this opportunity and want to know more, please contact our Missions Lead Team's ministry leaders Jerry and Joyce Duey for more detail.

faith LAB

Science Inspired, Christ Focused VBS Program

FAITH Lab Science Camp!

BY JOY LOWER, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

This year's Summer Camp theme was FAITH Lab. The "faith" acronym stands for **F**aith, **A**lmighty, **I**nfluence, **T**emptation, and **H**eaven. Each day had a theme verse, a project, and science-based devotionals that all built upon the key word. As my first year helping to lead Summer Camp, I may have felt (slightly) overwhelmed at the task but I was *completely astounded* by the level of support and commitment demonstrated by all of YOU! Many of you stepped up right from the start, others were willing to fill in when needs unexpectedly arose, but all of you worked to God's glory to make the week incredible and life-changing for the kids. We saw 120 kids attend throughout the week and many families were blessed by the meal served by our amazing kitchen crew each evening. Several children made commitments to trust in Jesus, and only the Lord knows how many others were encouraged in their faith or heard the Gospel for the very first time. We know that every word spoken to these children will not return empty! **Thank you** for donating items and energy, for giving time and love, and for impacting our world right here in Clinton.





faith
LAB
Science Inspired, Christ Focused VBS Program





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Forming followers of Jesus who impact their world

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