



1Thessalonians 5:13-15

Rise and Shine

13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. 14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

Plymouth Lutheran Church

Pastor Ryan Kandoll

October 2023

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From the Pastor's Office

Have you noticed that the Christian worldview is a minority view in our country? We are not very popular. We are countercultural or at least we should be, many Christians don't even realize that they have bought into a secular humanist worldview on many of the issues in our culture today. "The most powerful worldviews are the ones we absorb without knowing it. They are the ideas nobody talks about—the assumptions we pick up almost by osmosis (Pearcey)" One telling fact of this is that 70% of those who have an abortion say they are a Christian (about half of them say they go to church more than once a month). How is it that so many are deceived? Another shocking reality is that it's presumed they don't feel comfortable going to church and admitting that they are pregnant and in need of help. The church of all places should be somewhere that people should feel free to come and admit that they have made mistakes. How do we become a place that loves people where they are at so they can find healing and come to know the truth?

We have been talking too much about what to avoid without talking enough about the blessings we have to pursue.

Sometimes we think about people living sinful lives and think in a judgemental way, "they're ungodly" Forgetting that Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6) and that the "kindness of God is meant to lead us to repentance" (Romans 2:4), "He shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). "While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son." How can we show love, patience, gentleness, and kindness to those who are sinners, who are still God's enemy—like we once were—so that they too can know God's kindness and be led to repentance like we were?

We are doing something different for Wednesday night Bible study. It will be a discussion on hot button issues in culture (LGBTQ+, sexuality, the hookup culture, and euthanasia). We will have our Bibles and read them but we will actually be using a Christian apologetics book as the main reading material. The reason is that topics are broad and understanding the opposition is vital to the cause. It's clear when reading the book of Acts and the Epistles that the Apostles knew how the pagans of their time thought that understanding shaped their work of evangelism. The book we'll be reading explains the logic of the secular humanist worldview behind these issues and makes a clear case for how the Christian worldview better explains the reality we live in and shows a greater respect for our bodies and humanity.

The book is called "Love Thy Body" "Answering Hard Questions about Life and Sexuality" The author makes a lot of interesting points about Francis Schaeffer's two story house and Cartesian dualism. My prayer is that God would use these discussions to bring people here who might not otherwise go to church and use this to bring them into a relationship with Him.

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Church website: www.plymouthapostolic.org

Church email: secretary@plymouthapostolic.org

Prayer Chain: plcprayerchain2021@gmail.com

If you would like to receive this by email, please send a message to secretary@plymouthapostolic.org

October at PLC



Sundays:

- 1,8,15,22,29** 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
 10:30am Worship service
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship
- 15** 10:30am Worship service -Communion
22 11:30am Abbreviated Communion

Tuesdays:

- 10** 6:00pm Mission Committee meeting
 6:30pm Board of Trustees meeting

Wednesdays:

- 4** 9:00am Men's Breakfast @ Perkins HWY 55 & 494
 9:30am Women's Bible Study at the church
 6:00pm Evening Bible Study
- 11,18,25** 9:30am Men's and Women's Bible Study at the church
 6:00pm Evening Bible Study

Saturdays:

- 28** 9:00 am Church Work Day

Organist/Pianist position Available

"Plymouth Lutheran Church is now accepting applications for a paid pianist and/or organist to lead us in song as part of our worship service on Sunday mornings at 10:30am and special times throughout year such as a mid-week services during lent.

We are also looking for substitutes to help fill in during our search.

You can find out more about us at <https://www.plymouthapostolic.org> and by coming to visit on a Sunday"

Contact us at secretary@plymouthapostolic.org

Celebrate Our Congregation

October Birthdays:

Rachel	Olson	10/7
Trevor	Olson	10/10
Andrew	Walters	10/11
Marilyn	Dahlmeier	10/13
Jan	Pelto	10/13
Tim	Jukuri	10/20
Alex	Walters	10/21
Eva	Vahakangas	10/22
Brian	Lunn	10/23
Katrina	Vahakangas	10/28

October Anniversaries:

James & Elise	9/13
Ryan & Jennie	9/22
Bill & Joan	8/29

Save The Date

National Collection Week is November 13th -20th.

Shoebox Sunday is November 12th



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It's time to start preparing to fill Shoe Boxes for the Operation Christmas Child collection in early November. There are free boxes in the church narthex available for you again this year.

(Continued from page 1.)

I'm hoping that the Christians who attend will prayerfully read the book as much as possible ahead of time and understand the other side's positions well, so we can engage in an intelligent and compassionate dialogue. To do this we need to avoid blanket statements about morality and instead focus on the blessings that God gives and the way our worldview shows a greater respect and love of the human body. Remember it is the love of God that leads us to repentance.

The new study will be on Wednesday nights at 6:00 starting October 4. The book is on several online stores including Audible (if you prefer listening). There are copies of the book at church if you'd prefer to buy it from here or need help with the price of it. Please read the book (at least the first couple chapters before Oct 4th) and come. Also invite your friends, believers, unbelievers, and those in between.

Pr. Ryan Kandoll



God Uses a Gift and a Letter to Change Lives



As a 7-year-old in Mongolia, Jargalmaa (pictured left) described one particular day as "unexpected." After school, her teacher invited her to a church where she received her very first gift! This Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift included, among other fun toys, stationery, and a set of hairclips. Inside, she also found a letter that said, "You are valuable and so loved by God." Jargalmaa cherished this message because her parents and grandparents had never told her that they loved her.

Jargalmaa went on to participate in The Greatest Journey discipleship program where she especially appreciated the lessons about God as Creator. Later in 10th grade, she accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Through her testimony, five of her family members and two close friends also made this life-changing decision.

Now 15 years after receiving her shoebox gift, Jargalmaa, her husband, and two young children (pictured above) have recently moved to a new community where they are ministering to youth in hopes of starting a church.

"I would like to challenge people who are preparing shoebox gifts to also write a letter showing God's love," Jargalmaa said. "What's written there may be very simple, but those simple words could completely change somebody's life."



SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS



"WOW" ITEM

- Soccer ball with pump
- Doll
- Stuffed animal
- Shoes



TOYS

- Toy cars
- Jump ropes
- Yo-yos
- Toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothbrushes
- Washcloths
- Combs
- Hairbrushes
- Small water bottles



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, and markers
- Notebooks and paper
- Coloring and picture books
- Solar calculators



ACCESSORIES

- Socks
- Sunglasses
- Jewelry and watches
- Flashlights (with extra batteries)



DO NOT INCLUDE

candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items; seeds; food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or glass containers; aerosol cans



“
Shoebox gifts are like snowflakes—no two are alike!
”

—Franklin Graham,
President, Samaritan's Purse



Operation Christmas Child®
Franklin Graham, President
© 2023 Samaritan's Purse.



How to Pack Your Shoebox Gift

As you prayerfully prepare to pack your shoebox gift, please remember that your shoebox gift will be an expression of God's love to a child. In fact, it may be the only gift the child receives. So, plan to pack quality items that will last, **and don't forget to make it FUN!**

1

SHOEBOX

Get a standard size shoebox to pack for a boy or girl. Need shoeboxes? Great preprinted boxes are available on our website.



4

PRAY

Most importantly, **pray** for the child who will receive your gift. Include a personal note and photo to delight the heart of the child.



2

"WOW" ITEM

Select a quality "wow" toy such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal to bless a child.



5

DONATE \$10 PER BOX

A donation of **\$10** per box is critical to cover shipping and other project costs. For easiest processing you can give online. If you use our **Follow Your Box** feature online, you can also discover the destination of your shoebox!



3

OTHER GIFTS

Pack full with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies.



6

DROP OFF

Take your shoebox gift to a local drop-off location during **National Collection Week, the third week in November**. Visit our website to find one near you.



SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/OCC

Seeing with open eyes

15 SEPTEMBER, 2023 / [THEFIVEHIVESBEESWAX](#)

While our family was sitting at the gate, waiting to board the plane for our long travel back to the United States. I looked over to my right and I saw Grant sorting thru his little coin purse. Grant knew that we would be traveling thru 6 countries (Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Qatar, Finland, Sweden and the US) on our way back to Minnesota. Grant was looking thru all his coins that he has accumulated in the past 7 years that we have been traveling back and forth from PNG to the US. He was pulling out the currencies that he would be able to spend along the way.



It struck me as I was sitting there watching Grant pick thru his coins, that our kids have experienced a lot of different cultures and so classifying something as “normal” rarely happens. I think it is a tendency of Americans to think that how things are done in America is the “normal” way (and perhaps also think it’s the best way too) It’s not just PNG culture that our kids have experienced, but they have gotten a taste of many other cultures thru the friends from around the world they have had in Ukarumpa and our different travel paths that have taken us to/from the US. The coins are just a small representation of the different cultures they have had a taste of.

So while waiting to board our plane bound for Singapore, I decided to take some pictures of things that I came across while traveling back to Minnesota that were different from the American culture that I remembered. The following pictures are just things that I could actually take pictures of.

But, before the pictures, there were somethings that I just couldn’t take a picture of: Swedes NEVER leave their car idle, they always turn it on just before they are ready to leave and turn it off immediately after arriving. Swedes also love to recycle. Finnish people are definitely stoic and being exactly on time is important to them! They are also very clean and orderly. Asians seem to always be very well groomed and are dressed neat and tidy, they also take a ton of selfies! Arab men seem to only talk in loud voices and the women barely speak at all. There is a very clear roll distinction between men and women in Arab countries.

Now, here are some things that I took pictures of along the way.

This is my first breakfast outside of PNG, in Finland. Honestly, I had tears in my eyes! A delicious breakfast that I had no part in making myself! (food prep is a huge part of my life in PNG) I also really enjoy a European style breakfast with yogurt, granola, bread with meat/cheese/cucumber or jam. There were no cold cereal or donuts to be found.



Here is Trent using an app on the phone to figure out what is on the menu at our lunch stop. This app accesses your camera and will translate whatever text you are looking at. After selecting what language you want to translate, you hold your camera over the words and they instantly turn to English! All of us in our family have

language translation apps on our phones, because you just never know when you might need it!

In Singapore it's not a moving sidewalk, it's a traveller! Also notice next to the traveller is a row of luggage carts—and they are free! Only in America have I had to pay for a luggage cart. Anywhere else I've travelled they have been free to use.





These were the niftiest door handles in Sweden. To lock the door you lift up and the handle stays put. To unlock and open the door you just push down.

We went to Morakniv—Mora knives in Sweden. The whole store was full of different kinds of knives and axes. None of them were packaged in sealed plastic cartons. All around the store were bins of knives and almost each one had a package of ‘help yourself bandaids’ for when you weren’t careful handling the knives. 😊

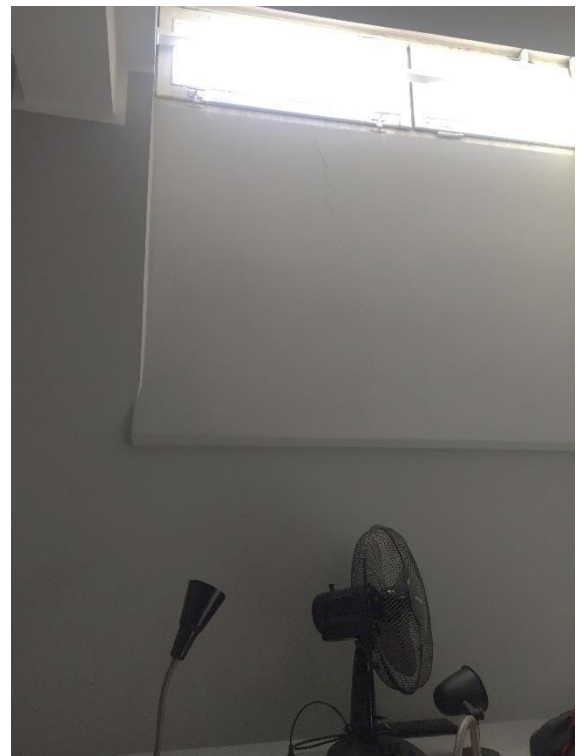


Something that has stood out to me as we have traveled many places is that in most other countries your personal safety is your responsibility. Other countries do not have nearly as many barricades, fences and boundaries to keep people safe. There may be a steep drop off in a park and it would be your responsibility to not get too close to the edge and fall off, it is not the responsibility of the park to keep you barricaded back and safe.



Here is a sign that was in front of a window in a town castle that we walked thru. There was no plexiglass or bars over the window. It was my own responsibility to not lean too far out the window!

Speaking of self-preservation and personal safety, here is something I found interesting. In a youth hostel that we stayed in we had rooms in the basement. Our boys had no window in their room and my room had just this little slit of a window that was about 8 feet up. So, I guess if the hostel started on fire, I was supposed to just push the button on the wall and wait for help??





On a much lighter note, the small round green hut is a public urinal—open 24/7! These were dotted all over the downtown area.



And since we are on the bathroom topic....here is a picture of a toilet that has become very common and familiar to me as we have travelled. A bidet'!



Ok, still on the toilet theme—

This is the inside of a bathroom stall. So peaceful you almost want to stay there! Believe it or not, that was in New Jersey.

Changing topics now....

Below is a picture of the mini fridge that was in a hotel room in Europe. Fully stocked and free—both alcohol free and alcoholic beverages. This was a stark contrast to a hotel room we stayed in North Dakota recently that didn't even have bars of soap or shampoo bottles! (Both hotels were budget hotels!)



Here's a picture of the boys on the ferry that we took from Sweden to Finland. This picture was taken at 11:00 at night, about 30 minutes before the sun set!



This is a self serve wrapping paper station. How ingenious! This wrapping paper station was right outside a larger store. After you buy the gift you can wrap it right then and there!



It seems that in every town in Europe there are huge cathedrals. People of great honor and notoriety are buried right in the floor of the cathedral or entombed around the inside perimeter. This is the tomb of Gustav Vasa, the Swedish king of whom the Vasaloppet ski race is named after. I think our gracious hosts got bored with all the cathedrals we wanted to look at. To them the cathedrals are common place, but to us they were fascinating and beautiful!

I know for my 3 boys, there are so many things that they have experienced in their lives as missionary kids, that they don't know what is normal in America. I think sometimes missionary kids get a bad rap for being odd. They may seem odd compared to your culture, but really they could be quite normal for the culture that they have grown up in outside of your home culture.

Adjusting to a new culture and surroundings takes a lot of effort. If you are talking to a missionary, they may have a blank or strange look on their face at times. Most likely their brain is in processing overload at the moment. They are trying to figure out what is going on because there are simultaneously taking in social cues, new slang words you may be using,

their brain is thinking in multiple languages, processing environmental differences and then trying to figure out how to appropriately respond to you—and probably have trouble recalling some English words because they are so used to speaking in a different language!

Recently one of my son's pointed out the sign below to me. He said, "Mom, there is a sale just for you. Maybe there are some kitchen things you need at that sale" You see, in Australia and in Papua New Guinea the word for Mom is "Mum". So my son, seeing a "Mum Sale" reasoned in his brain that it was a sale for Mom's. Makes perfect sense right? I had to then teach my son what a mum (fall flower) in America is.



So, if ever a missionary seems to look dazed, confused, or just blank....well, just give them some time to let their brain process what is going on and figure out what your "normal" is. 😊

And I also highly encourage you to go places that are unfamiliar to you. Opening your eyes to sights, sounds and smells that are different to you will give you an amazing look at the variety God has given us in this world. It will also give you a greater appreciation and love of the beautiful differences there are in the people and places you visit. Enjoy!

<https://thefivehivesbeeswax.wordpress.com/2023/09/15/seeing-with-open-eyes/>