



## FINAL THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

I write this article with reflection. Somehow, it is now ten years that I have been the Lead Pastor at HiWay Baptist Church. When I began the journey, I really did not fully comprehend all that was in store for us. I had never been a Lead Pastor, and I was actually quite content in the Associate Pastor role; however, that was not in God's heart.

You have kindly allowed margin for my shortcomings and have still been compelled to follow my

leadership. Such things are beyond my grasp of comprehension and, I suppose, better left in the realm of the Lord's grace. Our walk together has been exciting, encouraging, heart-breaking, and difficult. Spiritual things are not for the faint of heart.

We have journeyed from a small church of less than one hundred people to a community that is more than three times that size. Many, many people have been transformed by the Gospel of Jesus while others have blossomed in the grace of the Lord to a deeper and more fulfilling walk with Christ. Such things are fuel to the fires of a pastor's heart.

I have prayed to the Lord for you, the Church, when my spirit was burdened over the spiritual attacks of the enemy. I have joyfully celebrated our spiritual victories with praises to God. I have been broken-hearted over the ravages of sin that have come amongst our Body while my heart has been mended when repentance and healing have overcome sin.

Church, we have been on a glorious adventure! Walking with Christ in everyday life is always an adventure. I hope that you are ready for the next step we are taking together. It is difficult to comprehend how the Lord uses us to fulfill His divine plan, but just *imagine* if we walk together in unity to where He will lead. Looking back at what He has done, just *imagine* what He can do!

Let's dream the big dreams of an amazing God!

Pastor George

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**HIWAY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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ENCOURAGING EVERYDAY PEOPLE TO WALK WITH CHRIST IN EVERYDAY LIFE.



JOIN THE JOURNEY



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## IMAGINE IF...

Life was different. Sin didn't exist. We were not defined by our appearance. We were not limited by time or money. We were able to worship God freely. Judgment was only done by God. We used what God gave us to the fullest. Serving was a pleasure. Inviting friends and neighbors to church was second nature.

There are a lot of "Imagine ifs" in the world; however, they seem to stay "Imagine ifs" for most Americans. The drive to live differently has left most people. According to Barna Group, 88% of people don't fulfill their life goals and 92% of Americans do not achieve their New Year's Resolutions! That means within a year people seem to give up. It is interesting that the American dream rarely gets fulfilled, yet as a people, we feel entitled to it. What happened to us as a nation?

Some claim that America has lost its morals. Others, that America doesn't know God. And still others blame technology. Regardless of what people claim, the idea stays the same: goals are not completed, and God is pushed to the back burner.

This year, HiWay wants you to capture the "Imagine ifs" and live life the way God intended it in relationship with Him. Whether an opportunity to serve, going on mission, or reading the Bible through the year, HiWay wants to help encourage you to reach these goals. Since our mission is to encourage everyday people to walk with Christ in everyday life, this seems to be a requirement on us as a church. Step out of yourself, and do what God is calling you to do. Don't run, hide, or ignore it; the Bible shows us what happens to us when we do (Jonah).

Feel free to talk to the friendly faces at the Welcome Center, a pastor, or any leader; they can help you find out ways to fulfill the purpose God has given you. It is never too late to start, remember, Jonah had to go into a big fish to do what God wanted him to do. Don't go into a big fish (it just makes things complicated); let's just start with going to the Welcome Center.

*"So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows. And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. (He could have started at the Welcome Center)" - Jonah 1:15-17*

\*Added for emphasis

SPRING 2018



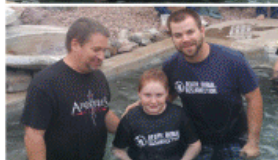
## BAPTISMS

God has been moving here at HiWay, and not just in physical building growth. The church body is growing rapidly as well. This fall we had seven people join the Journey by taking the first step of baptism! We are excited that they are joining us for this journey and we know that we will see them in Heaven as brothers and sisters in Christ. Pictured on left, top to bottom, Abbey Ledlow (2/4), Blake Tenney (3/7), Emily Tenney (3/7), Jena Swanson (3/7). Remember, it is never too early or too late in life to follow the Lord Jesus Christ in baptism. What is keeping you from following the Lord in baptism and joining the Journey? If you want to know what it means to be baptized or why we do it, talk to Pastor Kelcey or Pastor George, they would be happy to help.



## BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Baby Bottle Campaign! Your generous donations have helped provide free pregnancy tests, counseling, parenting classes, ultra sounds, Bible studies and material assistance such as diapers and clothing. Last year HiWay raised a total of \$2,800.65, and this year we raised \$2,917.38! What a great way to show the love Jesus has for these women and their babies. Thank you for showing love and support to women and families in the community.



## GREETINGS FROM AFRICA

Mate aran go? (How are you all?) Wanda\* and I have just started our fifth month here in Niger! After some pleasant temperatures in December through mid-February, we are now entering our first Dunghy Waati (Hot Season). Most people that have lived here for a while really do not look forward to these next two to three months. The temperatures here will not be that much different than our Arizona summers. The biggest difference is that you are not going from an air conditioned car to an air conditioned office to an air conditioned home, etc. Usually, we will only turn on our AC unit at night so that we will be able to sleep comfortably. During the hot season and the rainy season, there are numerous power outages, sometimes for days, and many people have a really tough time enduring the heat without any power. We are very fortunate to be able to live here on the Mission Baptist compound where we have a backup generator that kicks in when the power goes out. Most people here in Niger, including many missionaries, don't have that huge blessing.

I would say that probably the biggest challenge that we have noticed during our stay here so far is how much longer it takes to get anything done! You usually can't get your grocery shopping all done at one place so it can take 3-4 hours for a normal shopping run. You are always fighting "crazy" traffic where the law of the road is "every man for himself." You can't be a timid driver here or you will never get anywhere! Combine all of that fun with the power outages, internet outages, the streets shut down due to protests (mainly from all of the newly imposed taxes here) or when the Niger president is traveling around...and all of the normal daily duties of life just take a lot longer to complete!

All that said, we are so very happy to be here in Niger! When we were in Spain this past December attending a conference of all of the IMB missionaries in sub-Saharan Africa, we were actually getting a little "homesick," not for our Mesa home, but for our home in Niger! Wanda\* and I are still learning Zarma five days a week, and we keep very busy working on the compound the rest of the day. Wanda\* is the Guest House coordinator here, and I have my hand in everything from fixing toilets, building things, cleaning things, to helping out other missionaries and staff here. We also try to assist our friends and national partners in the villages as often as we can. We love spending time in the villages, especially those where HiWay Baptist Church has been such a blessing over the years. There are some amazing Christian brothers and sisters there that have a real passion for His Word and who are reaching out to their neighbors and other people groups near them. They constantly fight so many spiritual battles in their villages. Please continue to pray for them.

We are excited that the HiWay mission team has arrived and is ready to help reach the people here. It is always nice to see friendly faces from our home in Mesa.

Wanda\* and I so appreciate your prayers, your support, and your love. Thank you too for your support of the East Valley Mission House (EVMH). We hope that you have been able to meet and love on the missionaries that have been staying there. We try to keep our friends and family updated through our secret Facebook group (secret for security reasons). For more information on how to contact us, we have plenty of prayer bookmarks that we left with the church. If you don't see one, I'm sure someone can find one for you!

*The Lord will always lead you, and satisfy you in a parched land, and strengthen your bones. You will always be like a watered garden and like a spring whose water never runs dry. - Isaiah 58:11*

Kala ton ton (See you later) - Joe & Wanda Kord\*

\*Name changed for the protection of missionaries identities.



## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

10 members of HiWay prayed in front of the Tempe Planned Parenthood on March 17th (pictured left). They showed up to pray, sing, and encourage women not to abort their babies. As Christians, we know that God has a plan for all people, we are His beloved creations. Keep an eye out and join us this Fall when we do it again.

## SMASHING HUNGER

On March 16th, the youth of HiWay joined with 4 other youth groups to have a blast together. A total of 24 students and leaders from HiWay attended this event. The event was held over spring break and was a blast!

They started by going to Feed My Starving Children (pictured bottom right). Here, they helped pack 236 boxes, which will go towards helping feed 139 children every day for a year. How awesome is that?! The food they packed is headed to children in the Philippines.

They then went to Arcadia Ice and played broomball (pictured upper right), which is a mixture of hockey and chess. This is where they smashed into each other and the ice before they ended the night eating pizza.

At HiWay, we try to build a culture of community and service, this starts with our teens. How are your serving and involving yourself with community?



## CAMP FUNDRAISERS

We want to thank all those that came out to the Chili Cookoff and Dessert Auction, to support our children and youth as they fundraised for summer camps. The extreme generosity of all those that came provided almost \$1900 in scholarship funds! Thank you, thank you, thank you for the generosity! This year, Lorie Tenney won first place (pictured left).

## NIGHT OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP

It was another successful Night of Prayer and Worship. Faith Christian School joined us to help lead worship (pictured on cover). In total, 42 people showed up (pictured below) and worshipped the most high God. They also took time to pray over HiWay, our community, the government, God's Kingdom, and missions opportunities. At HiWay, we understand that prayer is a gift from God and that everything we do should be covered in prayer. Keep an eye on the bulletin or the calendar to find out when our next night of Prayer and Worship is, you won't want to miss it! It is definitely worth the hour and a half!



**GAME ON!** If you have a K-6th grader, we would love to have them join us at VBS this year. VBS is June 18-22nd from 9am-12pm. It is absolutely FREE! Invite the children in your neighborhood and family, this is something they won't want to miss.

This year, we will be GEARING UP FOR LIFE'S BIG GAME through Bible studies, prizes, games, missions, crafts, and music. Join us if this sounds fun or if you just need some free half-day day care. We would love to have the chance to share the Gospel with the children in your life. Check the church website for more information.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Summer is quickly approaching! Here are some events that you need to put in your calendar:

- MAR 29 GOOD FRIDAY**  
Drama and music at 7pm  
Invite friends and family
- APR 1 EASTER SUNDAY**  
Services at 6:15, 9:30, and 11am  
Small Groups at 8 and 9:30am
- APR 17 TAFT MOVIE NIGHT**  
Help Needed  
Sign up in foyer
- APR 22 BAREFOOT SUNDAY**  
Donate soles to help us  
Reach more souls
- JUN 3-9 MISSION LANCASTER**  
Youth Summer Camp  
7th-12 Grade
- JUN 18-22 GAME ON!**  
VBS 2018  
K-6th Grade
- JUL 1-6 LEVEL UP!**  
Kids' Summer Camp  
1st-6th Grade

## LEARN MORE

Visit our website at:  
[www.hiwaybaptistchurch.org](http://www.hiwaybaptistchurch.org)

## LEVEL UP

If you have a 1st-6th grader, we would love to have them join us at Kids' Camp this year. Camp is July 1-6th and costs \$250. Keep an eye out for upcoming fundraisers to help us make camp more affordable.

Life is tough, and walking as a Christian is even harder (the gate is narrow)! However, we know that following Christ has the greatest reward. This year we will be looking at some Spiritual Disciplines. We want to make spiritual disciplines easier to understand for children. To help them see that when we do them, it makes it easier to WALK WITH CHRIST ABOVE ALL ELSE! Sign up now in the foyer of the Family Life Center or talk to Pastor Kelcey.

