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APRIL 2014

Walk in the Light

*"Come, descendants
of Jacob, let us walk
in the light of the*



Principal's Message



I recently saw a TV commentary about how Hollywood is recognizing the need to speak to the evangelical community in how they present stories from the Bible. The message was that the director had done well, keeping close to the account of Noah from the Bible, in this Paramount Pictures version of the story starring Russell Crowe. I heard from a friend that while the movie has some facts correct, it also manages to corrupt some of the most significant doctrines of Scripture such as the Fall. I don't think Hollywood has us figured out yet.

This movie controversy and a couple of other items over the last week remind me of the challenge it is for followers of Jesus to live within our Western culture. "Living at the Crossroads" is the title of a book I read a short while ago (Goheen and Bartholomew, 2008). It is an interesting look at how a Biblical worldview connects, and sometimes disconnects, with the culture in which we live. We are called in Matthew 5:14 to be a light to the world that can't be hidden, yet there is a danger that our own light can be snuffed out by the influences we encounter while in the world. The authors of the book tell us that the gospel we find in Scripture is as deep and wide as creation itself. It speaks to all of life and God desires that all of our life is impacted by it. In our society, the Biblical story of creation, fall and redemption, intersects with the Western story of postmodern humanism. As Believers we have to figure out how to live at this crossroads. This is no easy task – we have to know who we are and constantly remind ourselves of the foundation on which we stand. We also have to be willing to engage with those around us in order to be a light for Christ in their lives.

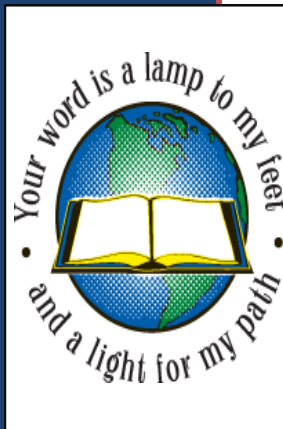
I can't tell you if you should go see Russell Crowe and his version of Noah but I can tell you that we Christians need to be prepared to speak the truth into the lives of those who do, especially since this movie contains just enough truth to be dangerous. Below is a link to a docu-movie version of the story called "Noah and the Last Days". The lead actor may not be as good looking as Russell Crowe but the story is certainly more true to the original!

www.NoahTheMovie.com

Randy Wood



Bible Memory



April: The Light has come

John 3:11-21

11 Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. 12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

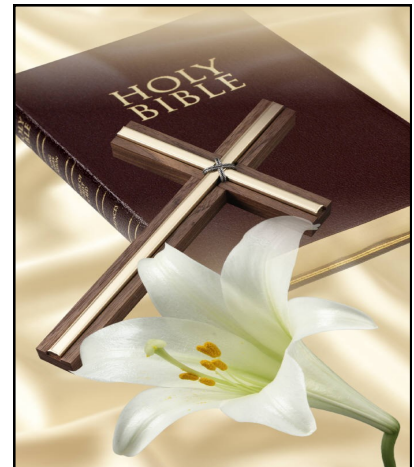


Welcome to April!

Here is the April Bible memory passage.

This will be our last one for this year!

When you’ve memorized the passage, recite it to your parent or supervisor and then they can e-mail me (corrie.leismeister@myghsd.ca) to let me know you have completed it. I will post names of the ones that have completed it in the newsletter the following month.



Activity days

**** REGISTER BY EMAILING OR CALLING THE NORTHSTAR OFFICE ****

April 4, Science Center, Calgary AB

PLEASE SIGN UP!

April 10, Drama and Music, Edson AB

May 2, Rock Climbing and Archery, Pioneer Lodge AB

Space is limited

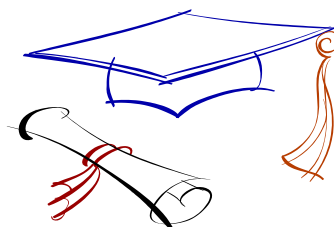


POST SECONDARY EDUCATION INFO

Grade 12 and high school students and families,

Want information about programs, admissions requirements, scholarships, loans and other topics related to post-secondary education?

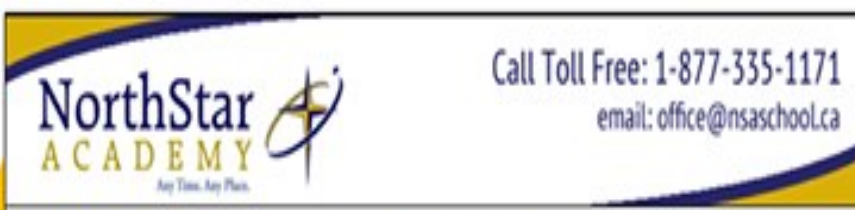
Check out www.alis.alberta.ca!



There are tons of resources for studying in Alberta. If you aren't sure what you want to do after high school, there is info on a variety of careers. If you do know what you want to do, there is information about scholarships, Post-secondary institutions and programs in Alberta. For information about admissions requirements, you can go to the website for the Post-secondary institution you are interested in attending and find the program you want and check out admission requirements. If you prefer to talk to a person, Colleges and Universities have academic advisors who are only a phone call away and their numbers are usually pretty easy to find on the website.



If you'd like help planning your high school years, make an appointment with Mrs. Leismeister at www.nsacorrie.simplybook.me.



Information Sessions!

Join us for one of our upcoming information sessions!

Date: Monday, April 7 – Presentation

Location: Bethel Evangelical Church, Three Hills, AB

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Date: Friday, April 11 – Presentation

Location: Kerry Wood Nature Centre, Red Deer, AB

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Date: Tuesday, April 29 – Preparing for High School

Location: NorthStar Academy Head Office, Didsbury, AB

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

To register, call 1-877-335-1171 or email office@nsaschool.ca

ATTENTION

High School Information session at the NSA office in Didsbury AB

April 7 at 7 pm

RAP program session for students going into grade 10 thru to grade 12. at the NSA office in Didsbury AB

April 10 at 2 pm



Three Hills Math and Social A-Day March

Pass the Pigs, Even Steven's Odd, Pajaggle, and Blokus were just a few of the fun math games that students played at the March 12th Activity Day, in Three Hills.

Math class began with a challenge from Mrs.C.

Students had to use an empty Kirkland water bottle to separate egg yolks from the whites. This activity that was a little messy, but it was a great object lesson for us. We are to be in the world, but separate.

1 John 2:15 says,

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Students participated in a discussion about what it means to live in the world, but to be separate. It means that we read our Bibles and obey God's Word rather than what our friends (or the world) say we should do. It means making good choices and serving the Lord in all that we do. The Bible tells us what is right and true. Mrs. C challenged students to try this object lesson at home and to remember this "separation lesson" each time they see an egg.

Students travelled around to various math game stations. A favourite was the Estimation Station. Students estimated the amount of items in each of three jars. There were prizes for the closest estimations.

Mrs. Leismeister took students on an adventure for social studies class. The students,

ages 10 and up, went back in time to 1495 and

became explorers. One group sailed from Spain and the other sailed from Portugal. They encountered a variety of challenges including:

- dead calm in the middle of the ocean
- a severe storm, poor living conditions
- poor food quality
- lowered rations
- typhus
- threatened mutiny from the crew
- a fight among crew members that resulted in serious injury (the ship's surgeon was able to save the life of the injured crew member)
- a broken mast, which caused injury and required the help of the ship's surgeon who was successful in saving the injured sailors.

Then they experienced the joy of finally seeing land (and being rewarded for being the first sailor to see land), meeting and trading with the Taino people, and searching (unsuccessfully) for gold before sailing for home.

The younger group also did a simulation in which they became settlers to Alberta in 1905. They started out making a map of Alberta before settlement - trees, lakes, rivers, creeks, etc. Then they talked about and looked at pictures of life in Europe and the journey on ship, train and cart to Alberta. Students listed the things they would need to bring with them and what they would need to do first when they arrived. Then they were each given a plot of land to develop themselves. They dug wells and built houses, barns, hen houses, bridges, docks, and even some stores.



Our winners! Congratulations from NSA!



The Lord sent me a great encouragement for homeschooling lately. Here's the story...

In late January, I finally took the children to the library to get them their library membership cards, we browsed while the librarian was entering our information into the computer. That was when I noticed a poster on the wall advertising a creative writing competition for children, here in Thunder Bay. It is 'put on' by the Thunder Bay Literary Network and sponsored by several businesses and organizations. The only problem was the deadline; the submissions were due in 2 days time, and we don't usually do school work on Sundays. This gave us one day! I thought that since we were writing all the time for school, we could take on the challenge; the children have a few good samples of this year's writing to choose from. I took a picture of the poster with my cell phone, so that I could have the necessary information.

The following Monday (a busy school day), I forgot all about the writing contest and deadline, until about an hour before they were due. Still, The children and I scrambled to fill out the forms, photocopy the writing samples and put them in envelopes for mailing. At the Post Office, I stood there to make certain that the packages were postmarked, and then dropped the matter. I told the children that by submitting their stories, they had a very slim chance of winning a prize. But if they didn't submit something, they had zero chance :) Needless to say, we didn't hold our breaths!

Then, about 3 weeks later, we got an e-mail stating "Congratulations, your Writing Submission was selected as a WINNER!" They didn't name which child had won, so we inquired. We then received the reply that all three children were selected as winners. We were shocked, but excited! They hosted a winner's Gala on February 27th, which we all attended. The children all won various prizes(books and Indigo gift cards etc.), especially John, who also won a Kobo reader and an R.E.S.P from a local credit union. The newspaper (Chronicle Journal) called yesterday morning to get consent to publish John's photograph in the paper this coming Friday. This whole episode was totally unexpected, but is such an encouragement to us, during this very different year of moving and home improvements! We are still giving thanks to the Lord for HIS encouragement :)

With Love,
Phil and Sheryl

What is a Teacher?

To answer this question I am first going to introduce myself. My name is Rene Hoeksema. I am also going to tell you what I believe. You are free to agree with me or to disagree with me.

I was born shortly after my parents moved to Canada from Holland in 1948. That makes me the oldest teacher on our staff. I grew up on a farm in Alhambra, Alberta and had a good childhood with just a few bumps in the road. I did not enjoy school but I did fine and after graduation I worked for a year and then went to a Christian college in Iowa in the USA. I was 18 and thought that I should move far away from my parents. I forgot how much I loved them and was terribly homesick for the first few weeks. I keep thinking that if I had just gone to a college closer to home I could go home for the weekend.

I got over the homesickness and graduated with a B.A. in Liberal Arts because I had no idea what I wanted to do. I also got married and after graduation we moved back to Canada. Jobs were scarce so we got a job managing a motel in Rocky Mountain House. I also sold real estate. We did this for three years and during that time our first son was born. A young boy of nine also came to live with us at this time as a foster child and later he was adopted.

Our next move was when my brother and I bought our Dad's dairy farm. We loved this life style but my allergies got worse until finally I ended up in the hospital and had to look for a new job. I found a job as a social worker in Peace River and we moved there. By this time we had our first daughter so now we had two sons and one daughter. We lived in Peace River for a few years and then we moved to Brooks, Alberta. While working in Brooks I went to the University in Lethbridge and became a teacher.

My first teaching job was in Eckville, Alberta where I replaced a teacher who was fired for teaching that an International Jewish Conspiracy controlled the world. He also taught white supremacy. Later I got a job teaching in a Christians School in Rocky Mountain House. I found that I liked teaching but I wondered what my role as a teacher was. I was a firm believer that the parents of the children I taught were ultimately responsible for them and I wondered how I fit into the picture as a teacher. I knew that I could not and did not want to do anything that would

interfere with the responsibility of the parents. I had been raised in a Christian home and had always gone to church. I called myself a Christian but I thought it was my job to make sure that I was right with God and I worked hard at that. It was at this time that I learned that nothing I could do would make me right with God. My new life began when I learned that Christ made me right with the Father and because of that the Father loved me totally and without conditions. The sin that had separated me from the Father was no longer a problem. I came to realize that nothing could separate me from the love of the Father just like nothing could separate me from the love I had for my children.

With this new view of the Father I was finally able to firm up my role as a teacher. I realized that I was hired by the parents to assist in the education of the children. My role as a teacher was secondary to the parent's role and I could never interfere with that role. I also realized that the value that my students had, was not their ability to learn or their ability to get good or bad marks. The student's value came from the fact that Christ had died for them and that gave them much more value than any mark or grade could. All the students had exactly the same value and that value came from the Father's unconditional love for them. My love for my students came from the love that the Father had for me.

So now I define my role as a teacher like this. I am hired by the parents to assist the parents in the academic education of their children. I work for the parents. As a teacher I see that all of my students have equal value and that their grades have no role in their value. Of course as a teacher I appreciate good work and I encourage the students to do their best. Once I realized what my role as a teacher was, my job became much

easier and my love for teaching grew. For the past 16 years I have taught on line and for me teaching is the best job in the world and I hope to be able to do it as long as I am able.

