

September/October 2017
VOLUME 42, NUMBER 5

WINNED NEWS

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***Let us not become weary in
doing good, for at the proper
time we will reap a harvest if
we do not give up.***

Galatians 6:9



Superintendent
Dennis Marquardt

**"Your Potential is
Our Mission!"**

BIG DREAMS REQUIRE BIG CHARACTER!

Psalm 105:17b-19 (NLT) "Joseph, who was sold as a slave. They bruised his feet with fetters and placed his neck in an iron collar. Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, the Lord tested Joseph's character." (underlined for emphasis)

I have heard a number of people talk about great dreams they have for ministry, but the moment things get tough or don't work out as they have dreamed, they want to move to another new ministry where they can now express their dream. The passage above contains a very important thought. Joseph as a young boy had a great dream, that one day he would rule over his brothers and be brought to a great place of leadership. God had given him this dream, and he was perhaps too quick to share it. His big dream brought challenges, especially from his own jealous brethren. They faked his death and sold him off as a slave. Then while serving in Potiphar's household he was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife for sexual advances toward her, and he was not just fired, he was imprisoned. While in prison he helped another inmate with a dream, which was fulfilled positively, and he asked only that the guy remember him when it came to pass. He didn't remember Joseph, and poor Joseph was left in prison with a big dream and little to show for it. Only later does the guy remember Joseph, and Pharaoh brings Joseph to interpret a troubling dream he had.

Up to this point it would have been easy to dismiss the big dream he had as a young man. He might have even blamed God for all the pain in this life and the unfulfilled dream which now seemed a long way off from possibility. He might have blamed his own family and wished he had had a better one. He had been abused, rejected, ignored, falsely accused and apparently forgotten by God and others for years. Yet, the Bible indicates that his character remained unchanged through all the disappointments. He continued to love God, to trust God, and to even care about his family. There is never a hint in the Bible that Joseph even once gave up his trust in God and rebelled. And we have no indication that he ever gave up on the dream either.

The day finally came when God raised him up to the 2nd highest position in Egypt. A drought hit all of the region and his brothers showed up to buy food. Joseph's dream was now a reality, *but only because his character had remained godly*. He not only dreamed a great dream, he had lived a great life! He never gave up on his trust that God would bring it to reality in HIS time. And because of this he did not need to take revenge on his brothers or others.

God had indeed tested Joseph's character over many years. And BECAUSE Joseph had stayed the course God made his dream a reality. He had passed the test of character! *"Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, the Lord tested Joseph's character." (Psm 105:19 - NLT)*

Tests and difficult setbacks reveal the true character of a person, and those in ministry who dream big need to understand that there may be big setbacks. Staying the course, and not giving up on God, His people, or the dream is part of that process of building character in leaders whom God can trust with big dreams. Part of this too is that when you arrive at a big dream and if your character isn't already solidly established, you will end up crashing with pride, self-importance, and it will end in personal disaster. Too many leaders have crashed and burned after building big ministries because of this. I often stated it this way to my staff pastors and other leaders when I was a lead pastor, *"God builds a man/woman before He builds a man's/woman's ministry."*

I get concerned when leaders tell me their great dreams, but the moment crisis hits or setbacks come they hit the road and move along to greater places to fulfill their dream. This is not to say that God doesn't move us to other places, but the reasons for going are important. The reasons for staying are also just as important.

What are your dreams? How is your character being tested for that day when it comes to pass? Are your dreams bigger than your character, or are you allowing God to develop and test your character before giving you a fulfilled dream?



Secretary/Treasurer
Ed Shearer

A REAL CHURCH

"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." (Ephesians 4:16)

When Paul speaks about those who believe and have received the gift of God, he describes them as a body, with Christ as the head, fitted together part to part, everyone participating, doing what they have been gifted to do. He describes only one body not many, and there are no useless parts, but somehow we have begun to equate trends in our current society with the church. Do whatever you want, believe whatever you want, take whatever you want, you still are members of the church—that seems to be the mantra. This is untrue. There is no self church, no welfare church, no platitude church. There is only the real church. If you want to be a member of the church, you have responsibilities that come with the privileges, so let's look at a few things we need to be once we receive the gift of God.

1) Be like-minded

Paul in Philippians tells us to be like-minded to Christ, to follow His example, to do what He would do. If Christ is the head of the church, then we must apply this like-mindedness to the body of believers. We are all in Christ. There are no racial distinctions, societal distinctions, or truth distinctions. When we come together as a body, our responsibility is to follow Christ. In our local church, our pastor and church leadership are responsible for bringing specific vision and direction to that group of believers and we have a great responsibility to take hold of that vision, and to be cooperative with that leadership. Paul had this problem in the first century when some claimed to be following Peter, some Apollos and some Paul, and this brought divisions into the church. Instead become of one mind (like minded) with those who have been given authority, and as they follow Christ, follow them.

2) Be A Warrior

The church needs to fight, but we are not fighting flesh and blood, and our weapons are not the weapons of the world. We could talk about many areas here, but for this purpose we are focusing on prayer. Everything that we do must be undergirded in prayer. Paul instructs us to "Pray without ceasing" and as members of the body we must spend time in prayer separately and together. We pray for those who lead us. We pray for the local body, and for the community it is in. We pray that God would shine His light through us on the spiritual darkness around us, bringing hope to those who are lost and salvation to those who respond. The warriors of the church pray.

3) Be A Disciple

We have a responsibility to grow as a member of the body of Christ. We must be willing to hear sound doctrine and then respond to it by allowing God to transform us. Too many times, we have lost the desire to learn and grow. We believe we already know everything we need, so we just stagnate, never changing. It is easy to get complacent and full of ourselves, content where we are, but God provides the Holy Spirit to place in us a desire to know God more. There is always more to know about God than we could ever fully comprehend during our lifetime so a thirst for His truth should always be a part of our Christian lives. Search the Word, attend gatherings at your local body, and place yourself under more mature leaders who are gifted and anointed teachers so that you can continue to grow.

4) Be A Worker

We need to participate. Paraphrasing James from the New Testament, You don't really believe if you aren't involved. We cannot just sit in our church and listen. We cannot just say we believe. There needs to be action. In order for work to be done, farmers need to be in the fields; workers have to be at their machines, in their offices, at their places of business. Think about dirty carpets...we can hear someone telling us the carpet needs vacuumed, we can agree with the principle of vacuuming, we can watch the vacuum cleaner, we can even pray for God to vacuum; but the truth is what will clean the carpet is us running the vacuum. We all have gifts, we all are parts of the body, and we all must do our part.

When you accept God's gift, and become part of His church, the body of Christ, you accept the responsibilities that go with the privileges. We don't set our terms, we don't decide what is truth, we don't get to benefit from everyone else's work while we do nothing ourselves. In God's Kingdom, we learn, work, fight side by side, and cooperate as members of the real church.

Congratulations to Rachel Lord from Ellsworth AG, two-time National Fine Arts Merit Award winner in the Rap Solo category.



Rachel performing before the judges.



Rachel performing at the Celebration Service.



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Bevie Jo Marquardt

FALL RETREAT

OCTOBER 19-21, 2017

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2017 AIM Trip to Alaska



Special Note from the National Youth Department:

Northern New England District AIMers,

Welcome home! We hope that your team had an amazing trip and encountered God in some incredible ways. We would love to hear about your trip to Alaska so we can celebrate with you. We have been praying for your team and the work God has done through you. Thank you for serving God's kingdom well, and thank you for choosing AIM!

The National Youth Ministries Team

If you would like to send a note about what God did during the AIM trip, you can send a note to the National Youth Dept., 1445 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield, MO 65802-1894.

Registration Fees:

Until 9/28:

Adults: \$49

Students: \$29

9/29-10/16:

Adults: \$69

Students: \$39

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The greatest gift we have to offer the kingdom of God is not what we do, but who we raise up. Lead the Generation Youth Leaders Conference was created to inspire and equip youth pastors, volunteer youth leaders and student leaders to invest in the next generation. We will challenge your thinking, inspire your heart and equip your hands to not give up. You can't lead the generation if you leave the generation.

WWW.LEADTHEGENERATION.COM

TERRY PARKMAN



ERAN HOLT



NATE GAGNE



HEATH MCCOY



DISTRICT SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

A new school year is under way! DSOM classes are specifically designed for ministry training and meet all the educational requirements for each level of credentials.

The courses consist of reading and study of a textbook, completion of a study guide, and participation in 5 hours of class time on the second Saturday of each month from September-December (December's class is on the first Saturday) for the fall and March-June in the spring at one of the three locations, at the NNED District Office in Portland ME, City Reach in Bangor ME, or Vermont.

Each student is graded on their study guide, a final exam they take during the class period, and their participation and attendance during that class time.

The certified level consists of eight classes and an internship that can be completed in one academic year. The licensed level has nine classes and an internship and requires one extra class in September of the following year, and the ordination level includes seven classes and an internship. The complete ministerial program can be completed in the period of three years through DSOM.

If you are interested in being involved in this great opportunity either studying for credentials or increasing your Biblical knowledge, check out the DSOM webpage at www.nnedaog.org/dsom.htm or contact the School of Ministry office at 207.878.2777

SUBSCRIPTION IS FREE UPON REQUEST

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