

Edify

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Passing Faith to the Next Generation

In 2 Timothy 1, the apostle Paul writes to Timothy, his son in the faith. He calls Timothy “my beloved child.” No doubt there was a remarkably close relationship between Paul and Timothy. Paul reminds his beloved child that at their last farewell, Timothy wept: “As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy.” Then the apostle adds “I am reminded of your sincere faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice, and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.”

These first verses of Paul’s final epistle reveal to us something of what struggling sinners and saints can do to pass the torch of genuine gospel faith to the next generation. Obviously, salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. No one can do the work of God in the heart of his own child or a spiritual son or daughter. Yet, we do see here how God often works in the lives of the next generation through godly men and women.

First, our love for the next generation must be deep, authentic, affectionate, and sacrificial. If we aren’t shedding tears of love, sorrow, joy or concern for our children, we may need to pray for the kind of love that the gospel is meant to birth in our hearts for each other by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I regularly reflect upon 1 Peter 1:22, “Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart.” Sincere love. Earnest love. A pure heart. If we try to pass on our faith, but we have not love, we are likely

passing on something else – like fear or frustration.

Second, our faith must be sincere. Paul commends Timothy’s grandmother and mother as first having the “sincere faith” that he sees in Timothy. Too often as a dad and a pastor, I find myself failing to trust God for my kids and my congregation. The urgency or intensity of my parental corrections often indicate a lack of confidence in the Spirit of God and the Word of God. No one can forcibly or fearfully pass on their faith in God as a lecture or a family imposition.



Church celebrates Elias Campbell’s baptism.

Faith is a gift of God’s grace that comes when the Spirit takes the grace of the gospel and gives birth to a living faith in the heart of a human being. Sincere faith trusts the God of the gospel to use the broken vessels of parents and pastors and youth leaders

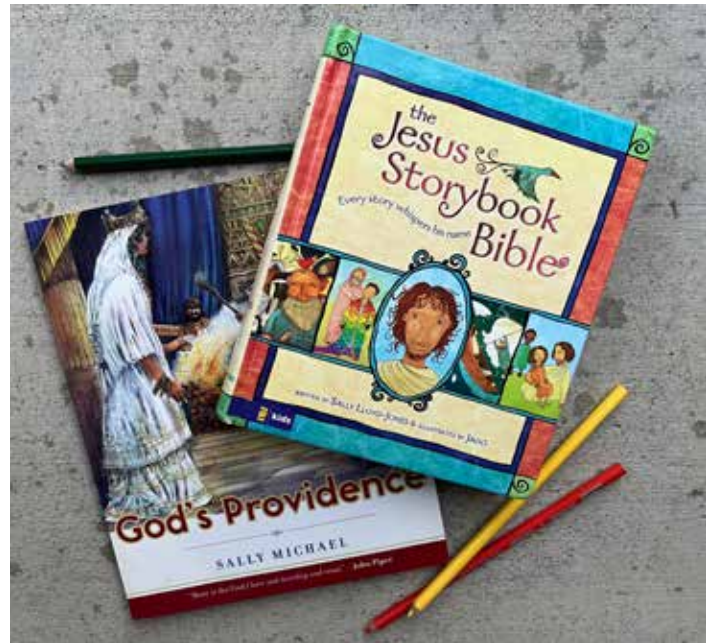
and friends to take the truth of God’s Word and awaken a young person to the joy of life in Christ – despite a hostile and uncertain worldly environment around us. Sincere faith trusts God with the next generation and tells the next generation why they can trust God.

Finally, passing on our faith means not just doing ►

◀ (continued from front cover)

life together in general but doing ministry together in community with God's people and being open about our struggles. Paul was transparent with Timothy. He shared at length with Timothy that the ministry was tough and that he needed others alongside him as he fought the good fight, and finished the race, and kept the faith (2 Tim. 4:8). Just read 2 Timothy 4:9-22. Passing on our faith is a collective ministry of the church. It isn't trouble-free as Paul admitted. However, isolated and cynical parents do great harm to their kids and their kids' faith. Happy, loving, connected parents give their kids a taste of the kingdom of God that is yet to come. They put them on a trajectory of growth in faith and love. May the Lord raise up a new generation more on fire for Jesus than we have ever been! ♦

- Senior Pastor Kevin Dibley



Ministries Point Kids of All Ages to Christ

Waterbrooke thanks God for the many volunteers in children's ministry and student ministry who help tell the next generation about God. Whether in the nursery-age or school-age, every child needs to hear the gospel and put their trust and hope in Jesus. Here's an update on how each ministry is at work.

Nursery | With new babies and busy toddlers, the nursery spans two rooms downstairs. Marcia Parel coordinates a team of volunteers who rotate to serve families during both services. Volunteers read gospel-centered board books, pray over the little ones, and help teach kindness and compassion. To encourage volunteers and children, the worship service is broadcast into the nursery area.

Children's Church | After singing and worshipping with their parents, the kids are dismissed to meet downstairs every Sunday during the last half of the second service. They learn lessons from teachers using the *Jesus Storybook Bible* curriculum. Katie Campbell, children's church coordinator, says the active crew of about a dozen kids ranges from age 4 to 4th grade, and they are very bright. Besides learning Bible stories, they are working on Bible literacy by memorizing the books of the Old Testament through music. This group uses the big space downstairs and two classrooms, one of which is set up with activity stations where the volunteers can connect and interact with the kids while they play.

5th & 6th Graders | Kids in 5th and 6th grades meet in the farmhouse during second service on the

first and third Sundays. Sandy Esters is leading them through a Truth78 study "My Purpose Will Stand," which reveals God's glorious work of providence. About eight students participate twice a month.

Student Ministry | On Wednesday nights during the school year, Waterbrooke's 7th – 12th graders meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Half a dozen men rotate leading the large-group teaching time, which is covering basic Christian doctrines this year. Their time together also includes games, multi-generational worship, snacks, and small-group time. About 25 teens attend each week, and they split into four separate small groups for junior high girls and boys and for high school girls and boys.

The ministry also organizes special monthly outings or events throughout the school year, like trips to Feed My Starving Children, the Reality Conference, and ice skating. Right now they have plenty of volunteers, says Kristen Savage, who with her husband Mike coordinates the student ministry.

"Praise God for providing! We have a solid group of dedicated volunteers. They are there every Wednesday night," she says.

Kristen asks the church to pray that God turns the students' hearts to Himself and that the community would be encouraging and devoted to the gospel. Pray also that the leadership and volunteers would stay encouraged, equipped, and faithful, and that they would continue to be creative in how they love the kids and pull in students who aren't able to attend on Wednesday nights. ♦

-Diana Barto

LET'S GET TO KNOW: Kevin Campbell, Elder

By Karen Kowalke, Treasurer

You may not know this about the guy on the worship team who looks like the quintessential “dad drummer” as he lays down the beat for mellow devotional music: he sometimes listens to heavy metal on his own time! (We can only imagine him rocking a mullet in his youth!) Kevin Campbell, however, has many facets to his personality, as shown by the diverse roles he’s taken on as a volunteer at Waterbrooke. In addition to drumming, he currently serves as the chair of the elder board, teaches in the student ministry and sometimes assists his wife Katie in children’s ministry. All done with his signature wry sense of humor and self-deprecating wit!

When Kevin and Katie named their first daughter Grace, that was a very apt choice on many levels. As Nora, Asher, Audrey and Elias followed, Kevin and Katie realized how much of parenting relied solely on the grace of God. As Kevin says, “there’s no silver bullet or manual that guarantees success in this area. You can’t make your kids Christians.”

So what can parents do? Kevin cites certain positive

things from his upbringing, such as regular church attendance, his parents’ strongly held Christian convictions, their facilitation of Christian friendships for their kids, and perhaps most important, it was made clear to him that at some point he had to make a decision for Christ on his own.

He and Katie try to incorporate similar things in their family; nightly family prayer, loving correction, and demonstrating

to their kids that they as parents need and enjoy worship and fellowship. In an age when the Internet and social media can be so destructive to children’s attention spans and self-perception, Kevin stresses the need to help them understand who they are in Christ. And on a practical level, never underestimate the importance of child-appropriate media access and good Internet filtering!

Kevin admits that they haven’t always been as consistent as they would have liked with family devotions. He’d like to do better in this area because whenever they have devotions, it has been great. But sometimes life gets hectic and things fall by the wayside temporarily.

“It’s normal to feel like we messed up and it’s too late,” he says. “But it’s never too late! Pick it up and start doing something! Even if your kids are now adults, your demonstration of the gospel at work in your life will be instructive and meaningful to them. Talk about your dependence on Christ, ask them for forgiveness for ways you’ve hurt them, and of course, pray, pray, pray!”

Parenting can be hard, but we’re called to do the best we can, knowing that the saving work in our children’s hearts is done by the Holy Spirit. It takes humility and prayer; ultimately, it all comes down to the grace of the Lord! ♦

Karen Kowalke and her family started attending Waterbrooke in 2000, and for the past 15 years, she’s handled finance and human resources for the church. She enjoys hiking at their Black Hills cabin, reading, and improving her rusty French.



Did you know?

- With no fear of heights, Kevin loves straight-drop roller coasters and water slides, zip lining and even skydiving, although Katie has put the kibosh on any more skydiving.
- Kevin likes home projects that add little to no value, take a long time to plan and execute, but are really cool. So far he’s built hidden bookshelves, a secret inner-wall kid hideout, and a climbing wall. This is why he’s not in charge of Waterbrooke’s building program!
- He refuses to learn the names of the family’s cats, but Kevin secretly loves them, although perhaps not as much as he loves a good Oxford comma. ♦

Church Hosts MnTC Choir for Two Decades

By Gina Eaton

Earlier this fall, Waterbrooke hosted one of its most enduring annual events: the Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge choir. MnTC has been offering hope and healing to those struggling with addiction for over 60 years. And Waterbrooke Church has been faithfully hosting and feeding the choir for more than two decades. It's the same every year: first, we cry. Then, we feast. This year, we did both outdoors for the first time ever.

Waterbrooke's very own Dianna Duncan, hospitality leader, has planned and overseen this special meal all these years as if she were serving it to Jesus. Sharing a generous variety of delicious home-made dishes sets the atmosphere for the friendly fellowship. Many intimate and meaningful private conversations with prayers and praises take place over lunch afterwards.

For the Waterbrooke family, supporting and feeding the choir guests is a tangible way to serve "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40) and puts an exclamation point on the morning's poignant testimonies of lives transformed by Jesus.

One of the most compelling aspects of MnTC is its unmatched success rate. While secular rehab programs are typically around 30% for long-term sobriety, MnTC reports having much higher success. An independent study by the Wilder Foundation found graduates of MnTC's long-term program report 80% abstinence from substance use. This statistic is a testament to the power of a Christ-centered approach. Graduates are equipped not only to maintain sobriety but also to rebuild relationships, secure employment, and contribute positively to their communities.

The unique core of MnTC's success is largely attributed to its intensive discipleship model, which integrates Bible study, prayer, worship, and mentoring. The focus is not just on overcoming addiction, but on cultivating



Dianna Duncan has been faithfully serving treats and meals to the MnTC Choir since its first visit in 2001.

a new identity rooted in Christ.

Churches like Waterbrooke play a vital role in supporting this ministry/program by partnering through prayer, volunteering, or financial support.

MnTC frequently uses singing and worship music to promote its highly successful program and spread the hope that can only be found in Christ. These choirs are composed of current participants and program graduates. Sometimes sweetly or nervously,

they share their potent testimonies of unimaginable rock-bottoms, recovery, and spiritual transformation through Christ. The purpose is twofold: to glorify God through worship and to offer the church a raw first-hand glimpse into the redemptive power of Christ. Through heartfelt songs and personal stories, the choir members connect with the audience on a spiritual level, creating a space for hope, encouragement, and awareness about the ministry's impact. ♦

Gina Eaton and her husband Bruce have attended Waterbrooke since its launch in 2000. Scrabble is her favorite game, and her favorite authors are Charles Dickens and J.K. Rowling.



After hearing songs and testimonies from MnTC, the Waterbrooke family enjoys a meal outside with members of the choir.

Missions Propelled by Multilingual Worship

By Pastor Gabe Zepeda

God loves the nations. God's promise to Abraham – that in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed – finds its fulfillment in the gospel of Christ (Genesis 12:1–3; Galatians 3:7–9). God's mission to save peoples from every nation has always been part of His sovereign purpose throughout redemptive history. The psalmist puts God's heart for the nations into the following words:

*May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you (Psalm 67:1–3).*

In the above text, the psalmist asks God to bless Israel with God's grace and presence. But for what reason? That through Israel's witness, God's way and saving power might spread throughout the earth to all nations. God is worthy of the praises of all peoples! Israel was supposed to be a beacon of hope—a magnetic force that would pull all nations around

them to love and worship the true and living God.

Sadly, Israel failed, being pulled away from God to worship idols. But Israel's failed mission is succeeded by Jesus. Jesus is the true and better Israel, Who came to gather all nations to Himself (Isaiah 11:12), starting with the lost sheep of Israel (Matt 15:24). His heavenly Father commissioned Him to die on the cross with the good news that all nations might have forgiveness in His name (Luke 24:46, 47).

And now Christ commissions His church to make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19). Through the church, Psalm 67 is being fulfilled in real time. That gives me chills.

Through the church, the way of Christ and His saving power are spreading to all nations in the praises of God's multiethnic people. Therefore, when we sing and worship in multiple languages, it causes us to yearn for all the nations to love and enjoy Jesus Christ! Global song inspires us to be on mission for all the nations. It propels us to pray, give, send, and go for the sake of the name (3 John 1:6b–8). ♦

Editor's note: This is the third in a series about multilingual singing. Catch our next issue for more on this topic.

5k Raises Support for Alba Safe House

A team of 10 from Waterbrooke gathered Oct. 5 to walk, run, and bike a 5k at Lake Minnetonka Regional Park as part of the 5th annual Alba Run for Recovery. The event aims to shine a light on the dark reality of modern day slavery by raising awareness and financial support for Alba Safe House & Recovery Program in Italy. Waterbrooke's missionary to Italy, Karise Pagano, is an integral part of the care team at Alba, which provides shelter, care, and the gospel to women and their children who are escaping sex trafficking. Others from the church participated in similar ARFR events throughout October, which is anti-trafficking awareness month in the European Union. At press time, Karise's Team Redenti had raised \$1,355 for Alba. ♦



Storytelling Sparks Interest in Missions

By Diana Barto

When taking the gospel to people in faraway places, you might cross paths with a scary snake, or find a frog in the toilet, or get food poisoning. And not surprisingly, details like that in missionary stories can make a listener reconsider travel altogether. But when Waterbrooke's Hannah Hauschild heard those stories as a child, she noticed the big joyful smiles on her parents' faces as they talked about the hardships and surprises they overcame. Their passion for missions heightened Hannah's curiosity and made her wonder why they treasured the memories of going to these difficult places.

Like most Christian parents, Doug and Julie also pointed Hannah and her younger sister Ella to Christ by reading the Bible with them.

"I was most encouraged by stories about people *not* wanting to do something God told them to do," she says, "like the story of Jonah and the whale."

Besides hearing missionary adventures and Bible stories, doing tangible projects – like helping her dad sew bags for nursing students in Haiti – also

heightened Hannah's interest in missions. When she saw pictures of nursing students far away carrying the book-bags that she and her friends had made for them, Hannah realized she could make an impact.

Now a young adult, Hannah volunteers as the small group leader for the junior-high girls in the student ministry. She loves to travel, and not long ago she started feeling the Holy Spirit nudge her to go on a mission trip. So when her former economics professor invited her on a short-term trip to Jamaica last spring, she signed up.

Along with her friend Emma, Hannah joined the team sent from Upsala Covenant Church of Upsala, MN. Praying that the Jamaican people would find



Hannah Hauschild (on right) with her sister Ella



Team prays over the jabode it constructed in Jamaica.

hope in the Lord and grow in that, the 10-person team traveled beyond the capital city of Kingston to the smaller, impoverished community of Spring Village. From early morning to mid-afternoon, they worked to construct a "jabode," which is a cabin-

sized home. They built the jabode for students who had nowhere else to live and were studying at Spring Village Tech School. After that, the team ran an after-school program for local children living in poverty. They taught them Bible lessons on the attributes of God, played games, did crafts, and sang memory verse songs.

Seeing the kids and spending time with them in the afternoon was the highlight of each day, Hannah says. For her, the most memorable part of the trip was getting to know a sweet and polite 5-year-old girl named Kasey. She spent extra time with Hannah because her mom has special needs. During the Bible lessons, Kasey listened intently with a smile.

"She's just a little ray of joy!" Hannah says.

Among the trip's challenges were the physical labor the construction project required and the difficulty of processing the poverty they encountered. Hannah says God met them there in Jamaica, and she learned to trust Him through these challenges. She grew in compassion and gained a new perspective on daily life in an impoverished community.

Seeing God work through it all was powerful, and Hannah says she learned that God does not call the "qualified" to do missions; He qualifies and equips those He calls.

"By the end of the trip, fear turned to peace and awe for God's plan," she says. "I saw how truly beautiful God's plan is – even in the unknowns." ♦

Look Back and Treasure God's Goodness

By Diana Barto

Several years ago our family had the privilege of seeing an amazing exhibit of the Dead Sea Scrolls at our local science museum. How incredible to see those ancient words of God – words that He miraculously preserved in jars that were inside of caves for two thousand years! What a mighty act of God! Preserving words on paper for that long would be impossible for man, but it was possible for God.

Seeing those scrolls reminded me of Psalm 102:18, which says, “Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD.” I am thankful for those men of long ago who obediently and diligently wrote those precious words down on scrolls so that my generation and my children’s generation – and Lord willing, future generations – can see them and praise God.

The Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit also reminded me of Psalm 145:4, “One generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts.” What a great reminder this verse is for everyone in the church – teachers, parents, grandparents, and any believer who has a child in their circle of influence – to retell stories of the faith.

In her story book Bible *The Mighty Acts of God*, author Starr Meade explains that the purpose of telling stories of God’s mighty acts isn’t for entertainment value or good moral examples. The purpose is to make known the wonder of God’s great character.

Likewise, John Piper of the Minneapolis-based Desiring God ministry, says we want the next generation to have not just heads full of right facts about the works of God, but also “hearts that burn with the fire of love *for the God of those facts* - hearts that will sell everything to follow Jesus into the hardest places of the world.” (Emphasis mine.)

That’s quite a vision for the next generation! May God make it so here at Waterbrooke. May He help us pass on to the children not only what we know from reading the Bible, but also what we personally

love about God and how we have witnessed Him at work in our lives. He reveals specific attributes of His character – like His faithfulness, compassion, and unfailing love – in specific moments and seasons throughout our lives. Sharing those personal faith stories and marveling at God’s unchanging character could help fuel the next generation’s love for Him and better equip them to pass on the faith to their own children someday.

Puritan Pastor John Flavel says, “There is not such a pleasant history for you to read in all the world as the history of your own lives, if you would sit down and record from the beginning hitherto what God has been to you, and done for you; what evidences

and outbursts of His mercy, faithfulness, and love there have been in all the conditions you have passed through.”

When looking back at journals or scrapbooks or even digital photos on my phone – through the lens of God’s goodness – I see things I did not see before. I see ways He has cared for my family, provided for us, comforted us, strengthened us, encouraged us, healed us, and equipped us. I see how He has brought

us through trials and sorrows. I remember joyous moments I would forget otherwise. As I share those insights with my children and others, I praise God.

The most essential detail to look for in our personal history, says Jonathan Parnell at Desiring God, is God’s mercy to us through Jesus.

“Every detail of God’s goodness to you has come through the blood of Jesus,” he says. “Look back on these providences and remember that you’ve earned none of them. They come by Jesus or they don’t come at all. His cross is the most vivid demonstration of God’s love for us, and every little good we’ve seen has flowed from that glorious fountain. It did yesterday, and it will tomorrow.”

So let’s make sharing stories of God’s goodness and mercy a higher priority. Let’s tell them to the next generation to encourage them to set their hope in God, keep His commandments, and never ever forget the works of God (Psalm 78). ♦

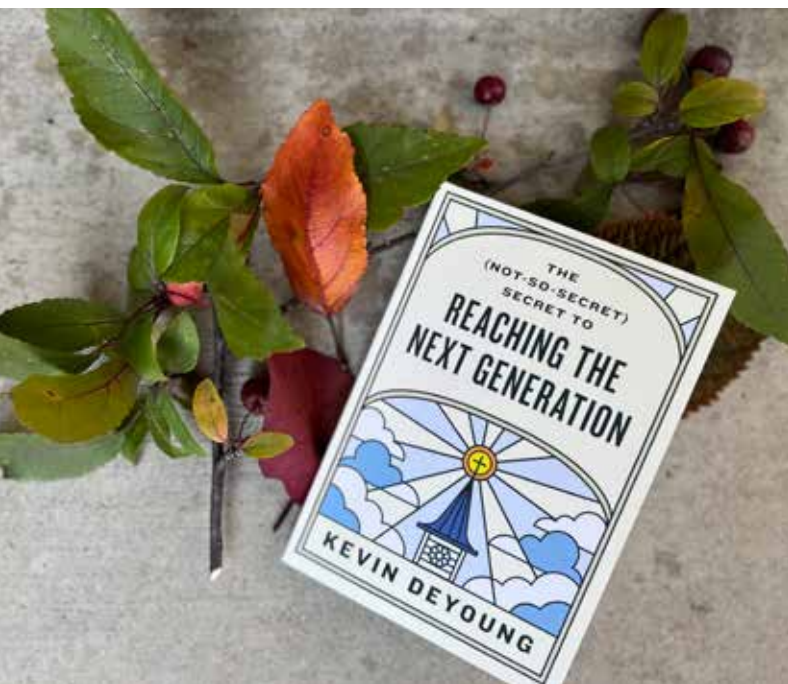
*Let this be written
for a future generation,
that a people
not yet created
may praise the LORD.*

Psalm 102:18

Quotables

“Young people want to see passion. They want to see us do church and follow Christ like we mean it... We cannot pass on what we do not feel.”

Kevin DeYoung, *The (Not-So-Secret) Secret to Reaching the Next Generation*



“The normal way of parents teaching their children about the faith – that’s God’s plan for the spread of the gospel throughout the world. The majority of us learn about the faith from a family member, a parent or grandparent. Those who are in close proximity to you are the most natural people to pass anything along to you – good or bad. Be faithful where God has you and to those around you. If you are teaching the faith to your children, you are being used by God. Be encouraged by that!”

Shai Linne, “Kids, Culture, and the Great Commission” Sing! 2023 Conference

“The decline of Christianity in the U.S. should grieve us because it has real consequences for coming generations and reveals the number of people who are living their lives without the hope of the gospel. As the rising generation faces the challenge of living in an increasingly secular culture, we must equip them to know, love, and live out the truth of God’s word.”

Patience Griswold, “Preparing Gen Z to be Lights in a Dark World,” Minnesota Family Council

“...there is no time to be bothered by scathing critiques of Christianity; they will come and go. Christians must get on with the business of educating and training up the next generation that God provides us.”

Stephen O. Presley, *Cultural Sanctification: Engaging the World Like the Early Church*

“Christians parent with one eye on eternity. Their children will live forever. This is a staggering thought... Therefore, the Christian does not parent for this life only. The believing parent labors to prepare each child for the day of judgment. The stakes are inexpressibly high... Christian parents have one goal during this short window of opportunity. It is to transfer the baton of faith in Christ to the next generation.”

William P. Farley, author of *Gospel Powered Parenting*

“If you don’t teach your children, the world will. Moreover, if you think two hours per week in church and the well-intentioned efforts of your youth pastor excuse you from having to talk about these topics (some of them *very* awkward), then I regret to inform you that your outlook needs to change.”

Andrew Walker, *What Do I Say When...?: A Parent’s Guide to Navigating Cultural Chaos for Children and Teens*