



The Christian life is a journey.

TrailNotes speaks to forward movement, paying attention to the “landscape” we are passing through in this trail-laced wooded hillside and valley, not to mention the world beyond. *TrailNotes* is an unfolding, ongoing journal of the people who share the trail with us and the things we’re learning and doing.

ELDERTALK Sharing Faith: Preparation and Dependence

JADAÉ FOX

“Therefore GO and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matt. 28:19-20)

The Great Commission

Learning to share my faith has been a challenging and complex endeavor, despite how it may appear on the surface. I may seem confident or comfortable in expressing my beliefs, but the process of getting to that point involved significant effort and personal growth. In fact, I am still growing and resisting the temptation to keep quiet and stay “safe.”

I have also had my share of snafus and major mistakes. The one that stands out among the rest is the time my sister and I attempted to evangelize her best friend over the phone. We were so driven to see her come to faith that we talked her into repeating a prayer. Now, to this very day, I still don’t know if she has true faith in Jesus or if we created a false sense of security that prevents her from seeking the Lord in faith.

“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”

-Benjamin Franklin

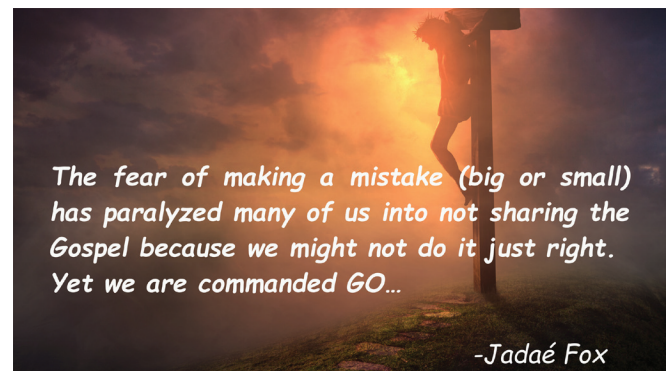
Before I could share my faith, I had to be confident of what I believe as well as the need to tell others. So, the LORD proved Himself true to me and gave me a yearning desire to tell others. Maybe you are like I was, wanting to share but lacking the tools and boldness to do it. I prayed and asked God to give me what I needed. However, I only saw the Holy Spirit’s work after stepping out and sharing my faith. Consider how the power to turn on the light in your home is only seen when you walk to the light switch and flip it on. There are many different approaches to sharing the Gospel. Just pick one and try it. Then try another!

At first, conversations felt wooden and rehearsed. I was very nervous. I found, though, the more I talked with others, the easier it became. Now I share the Gospel

in part and in full as much as I am able. Truthfully, there is always a little of the jitters. Although now I think more of it is excitement at waiting to see what God will do.

- Like the time God told me to tell my co-worker that she would receive a \$5 bill as a tip to prove to her that He (God) is real!
- Or the time my nurse in the hospital came to faith in Jesus through our daily interactions. At that time, I was connected to a heart monitor, and my nerves/excitement showed up on the screen. She said, “You need to calm down. Maybe we should stop.” I said, “I can’t wait to see what God will do in your life! Let’s continue!”

The key is the willingness to step out in faith and share. I don’t know the outcome of a given conversation: the person could laugh, get angry, or ignore me. Even so, they are still hearing the truth. The Lord can use the seeds planted years later. “...know the truth and the truth will set you free. (John 8:32) Every conversation is different because every person is different. This is why I have had to learn to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit: when to speak or when not to, when



The fear of making a mistake (big or small) has paralyzed many of us into not sharing the Gospel because we might not do it just right. Yet we are commanded GO...

-Jadaé Fox

to encourage or confront sin. I ask a lot of questions and listen to their answers and to the Lord. He will often bring to mind a situation I have been in that relates to theirs or a Bible verse that cuts to the heart

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Sharing Faith *(concluded from p. 1)*

of the matter. Good conversations are always a union of a williness to climb out of the boat and rely on Jesus to give you what you need for the moment.

“Give me six hours to chop down a tree, and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.”
—Abraham Lincoln

How we sharpen our ax

- Ask God to give you a burden for the lost
- Read and memorize your Bible
- Pray and learn to listen to the Spirit
- Practice with other believers
- Be willing to get messy and make mistakes
- Slow down and allow God to interrupt your day
- Expect God to do great things in big and small ways



Women of Grace

The Mad Hatter Brunch on June 17 garnered a lot of smiles and laughs as the gathering started with an opportunity for the ladies to have their photos taken in their summer dresses and elegant hats when they arrived. Mary Beth Adams had hung a backdrop and used her peacock chair for the photos she took. She also provided several dozen vintage and unique hats that the ladies could wear for the photos and during the morning.

The reading of several Scripture verses and saying a prayer was followed by the potluck meal. Afterwards, Mariae Frankenfield gave a brief history of hats and focused on the Proverbs 31 woman who wore many hats (*article following*) just as we do today. Then each of the 23 attendees shared about the hat she wore. It was a sweet time of fellowship!



Judy Nichols - “Off with their heads!”

August 2023

4 OWLs 8:30 am Study and Prayer.

4-6 Family Camping Weekend. Schedule on circular table.

6 Pastor Eric Byrom preaching: 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

10 Women of Grace Bible Discovery and Prayer 6:30-8 pm.

13 Eric Byrom preaching: 2 Tim. 4:9-22.

18-20 Church Conference: “Grace on Mission” Fri. 7pm, Payment due Aug. 13. \$25.

19 Community Celebration 5:30-8 pm. Payment due 8/13. \$15.

20 Eric Byrom preaching Hebrews 1:1-3.

25 OWLs 8:30 am Study and Prayer.

27 Eric Byrom preaching: Hebrews 1: 4-14.

LADIES' BRUNCH: HATS!

MARIRAE FRANKENFIELD



The theme for the ladies' brunch this year was "HATS!" We had fun trying on and modeling the many hats that Mary Beth Adams brought. When I was asked to share some thoughts with the women, I asked myself, "How can I tie in encouragement to hats?" Here's what I came up with.

Hats aren't the necessity or fashion statement they used to be. I have wondered if the reason is that we don't need to protect ourselves from the weather the way past generations did. I've wondered the same about dresses and skirts. Have you noticed that hem lines rose as central heating systems abounded? In the past, people wore hats to identify their job or profession. Remember the nurse's cap of yesteryear? Protective services such as police or military still wear a particular kind of hat as do firefighters and construction workers, though their hats are more about protection than looks. Include sports uniforms with these as well.

Hats can denote achievement as in the mortarboard of the academic or the crown of the king and queen as we have seen recently. Hats can identify us as part of a group: think MAGA hats or the ethnic group as in the hijab. Hats are useful in hiding hair or the lack of it. Hats can also be a fashion statement. There is a figurative sense in which we wear many hats as we serve in many roles such as mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, companion, chef, domestic caregiver, counselor, teacher, bookkeeper, artist, not to mention what we do outside of the home.

When we read about the woman in Proverbs 31:10-31, I see a woman who wears many hats.

She is a weaver in verses 13 and 10.

She shops and provides for her home in verse 14.

She performs as a chef in verse 15.

She is a business woman in verses 16, 18, and 24, and despite her great busyness, she is mindful of the poor,

She is a tailor in verse 21.

She is a strategic planner in verse 25.

She is a counselor and teacher in verse 26.

She is a manager in verse 27.

She is a wife and mother in verse 28,

She is a woman who fears the Lord in verse 30 and 31.

I used to feel inferior to this woman because I do not do half of the things she does. Then I realized that this passage is not about the woman as a workhorse, but about the praise of God as He inspired the writer.

The woman in Proverbs 31 is lauded and praised, and this was exceptional for the time in which Proverbs was written. In the ancient Near East when this was written, as well as the Roman Empire, the time of Jesus, women were considered possessions and treated as inferiors. But God's Word says the opposite.

Even back in Genesis, the place of a woman is much more than a possession or inferior. The Hebrew word found in Genesis 2:20, "But for Adam, no suitable helper was found" - Ezer (helper) - Kenegdo (opposite but similar). The two words together mean "a helper who is opposite but similar." Eve was the only appropriate helper for Adam because she was like him. The word "ezer" is used several times in the Bible, but only for God as *Israel's strong helper*. "Ebon Ezer" - the use of these two words defining the woman denotes *equality though opposite*. Subservience came after the curse.



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Many diverse hats adorned the GFC Mad Hatters

Younger Mad Hatters:



Hannah

Harmony

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Eric Byrom	Presiding Elder/ Pastor
Jadaé Fox	Elder
Matt Godsil	Elder
Andy Heininger	Elder
Jerry Mathias	Elder
Cameron Karger	Treasurer
Kay Berry & Karen Gates	Women
Lori Barker	Missions
Andy Heininger	Worship
Judy Nichols	Prayer Chain
Kay Berry & Jadaé Fox	Office
Andy Anschutz	Sound/Power Point
Circle Groups	Greeters
John and Donna Kurtz	TrailNotes