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 Ellensburg, WA 98926  
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# The Nutshell



November 2018  
 Volume 27, Number 11  
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**News and Information from Chestnut Street Baptist Church**

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## The Nutshell, November 2018




**ANGEL TREE**  
*A Program of Prison Fellowship*

We have received our list of children's names for the Angel Tree this year! This is our 5th year using the program to bless families and outreach in our area. We have 26 children in Kittitas County and the Yakima area who currently have a parent in prison.

To help these parents keep connected with their child at Christmas time, we buy a gift that the custodial parent or grandparent requests for the child. We have given toys, boots, coats, gloves & books. The gifts are around \$20-25.

Please pick up a name or two and help our church add to this outreach. The names will go up in late November and the unwrapped gifts need to be dropped off at the church by December 16.

Any questions, please talk to Kathy Hollar or Kim Woody.

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### As I See It ... by Pastor Frank Johnson "He nailed it ... to the door, that is."

It happened today, October 31, 501 years ago. An Augustinian Monk and university professor named Brother Martin reportedly nailed a list of 95 assertions to the door of the Chapel at the University of Wittenberg in Germany. It is an iconic image: Martin Luther stands there in his brown robe and funky haircut with his 95 Theses as he nails it to the door. In truth, it may not have been quite so dramatic. Academics at that time and place called for debates in the same fashion all the time. Probably, the 95 Theses was delivered to the equivalent of the academic dean's study.

What Luther wished to debate was the practice called *Indulgences*. Indulgences were rather like "Get Out of Jail" Monopoly cards with a Catholic Christian application. The person in possession of an Indulgence was assured that the decree listed on that certificate guaranteed pardon from all sins for the named individual, so that the person it was purchased for would be able to pass out of Purgatory into Heaven immediately. This practice was based on the growing belief in the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries that the Roman Catholic Pope held the absolute power of forgiveness and could grant it to whomever he willed. The Pope was also raising money to build St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Heck-of-a fundraiser, eh? The Pope gets the money needed to build the Basilica and the people's loved ones get out of Purgatory. Everybody wins!

Such a practice was accepted by the people because they had no way of really questioning it. The Bible of their time and place was in Latin, and there weren't that many copies around—and the people in Germany and most of Europe didn't speak or read Latin anymore. In short, they just

accepted what their church leaders told them and did the best they could with it.

Enter Martin Luther. The timing of his appointment to the University of Wittenberg to teach Bible and theology seems providential. Right about that time the Renaissance scholar Erasmus had published a new edition of the New Testament in the original Greek language. The newly invented printing press had just been around for about 50 years, and this device made it possible for the Greek New Testament to be distributed far and wide. Luther was a skilled academic, and he had access to this new edition of the New Testament. He began to read and study it, as he taught the book of Romans to his students. Slowly it dawned on him that forgiveness was already completely purchased by the finished work of Jesus Christ in His death and resurrection. And so, the 95 Theses was born to invite other scholars to debate the difference between the teaching of the New Testament and the practices of their contemporary Church.

As I see it, here is what happens when we go back to our Bibles and read them carefully. We are ultimately drawn to Jesus Christ and to His finished work for our salvation. "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12 ESV). We realize that we can add nothing to that but our faith and loving obedience. Such a realization can change the world. It did so before.

My love in Christ,  
 Pastor Frank

### In the Coming Month: November 2018

<b>Sundays</b>	9 a.m. Bible Study Hour, and 10:15 a.m. Worship
<b>Tuesdays 6:30 p.m.</b>	Life Group at Johnson's, 808 E. Capitol
<b>Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.</b>	Prayer Group at the church's facilities, room 202
<b>Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.</b>	Cornerstone Kids Club
<b>Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.</b>	Ignition (youth group, grades 6-12)
<b>Thursdays 6:00 p.m.</b>	Life Group at Jim & Laura Bisonnette's, 2406 N. Ellington
<b>Thursdays 7:00 p.m.</b>	Life Group at Boudreau's, 1001 E. Mountainview
<b>Thursdays 7:00 p.m.</b>	Crosswalk (Collegiate students and young adults)
<b>Fridays 4:30 p.m.</b>	LIFE Group at Briarwood Commons, 1001 S. Chestnut St.
<b>November 2-4</b>	NCM Fall Retreat
<b>Sat. Nov 10, 8 a.m.</b>	Men's Breakfast
<b>Sat. Nov 17, 9 a.m.</b>	Women's Breakfast
<b>Fri. Nov 16, 7 p.m.</b>	Cold Weather Shelter begins
<b>Sat. Nov 17</b>	NCM Friendsgiving
<b>Thurs. Nov 22</b>	Thanksgiving Day
<b>Nov 30- Dec 1</b>	Men's Retreat at Lazy F Retreat Center



## Stacia's Notes: Youth Ministry Update

### Youth Greetings:

There are reasons for joy all around us! In a leadership study with the college students earlier this month we talked about joy and celebration. We were challenged to recall our reasons for joy daily. I have been trying to do that and I encourage you to do the same. When we remember the reasons for joy we have- from a healthy meal, to a comfy bed, to fiery orange leaves, to refreshing rain- we become more thankful and aware of what's around us. And maybe these will all help us to remember that ultimately, in Christ, *we have joy already*, through the salvation and relationship that his death and resurrection provides us!

### Ignition:

Our group of students is just wonderful. I wish you could be a fly on the wall on a Wednesday night and hear how they answer questions about life, God, and the Bible. I wish you could experience their care for one another and their sense of humor. Our upstairs room is full of life on Wednesday nights! This is from God! Hallelujah!

We are just wrapping up our Fruit of the Spirit series. Then we'll spend a couple of weeks talking about how to be thankful and what to be grateful for, including sharing a feast together on November 14. We will take a week off on November 21<sup>st</sup> in observance of Thanksgiving.

Our group is young and energetic right now, a fun mix for our mid-week meeting. Last week we had a student return after a bit away because she had been re-invited by a friend at school who has been coming due to *her* friend inviting her. This makes me happy. It is a sign that God is working and that our students are appreciating the time they have together on Wednesday nights. Pray that this blessing will continue and grow and spread!

### Highlight Story:

A favorite youth memory from the month of October was having Bryce and Aren each lead out on a week during our Fruit of the Spirit series. With Jeremy gone to East Asia I took on some more responsibilities with NCM so these guys stepped up and helped out more with Ignition! It was a huge encouragement to me! Aren shared about goodness and Bryce about kindness on separate weeks. They led us in discussion and reading of Scripture so we could really understand what these characteristics can look like in our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit. I was particularly struck while Bryce was teaching how well the young men in our group responded to him being our teacher. I am so grateful to serve in this ministry and to have the help that I do. It is so important for these young men to have faithful men in their lives to look up to and to see them taking on leadership roles. As the guys in our group answered questions that week I was reminded to pray that they can continue to see this play out in our youth ministry, in our church, and in their homes and communities. May it be so, for God's glory!

With hope in Christ,

Your Youth Director,

Stacia Harmsen



## Women's Ministry Events

The cooling weather marks the lessening of our women events. We are not hosting weekly Prayer Walks anymore. But don't worry, we are planning a few fun things for the winter months! Keep an eye on the bulletin and Facebook page for news of fellowshiping events.

We will still meet the third Saturday of each month for our Women's Breakfast. Our November breakfast is **Saturday, November 17 at 9am** in the fellowship hall. We are continuing through the book 100 Favorite Verses. Join us for a light breakfast, hearty fellowship, and lively discussion of God's Word!

## Cold Weather Shelter

The Cold Weather Shelter is set to open soon and the first night at CSBC is Friday, November 16. If you are interested in serving or getting more information, please contact [coldweathersbc@gmail.com](mailto:coldweathersbc@gmail.com) or talk to Jordan or Lydia Gross. Training at CSBC November 2, 7 p.m.

## Collegiate Ministry

This past month has been lots of fun, as we have deepened fellowship with one another each Thursday at Crosswalk, and have shared some good food together. We continue to read and ponder Jesus' "I am" sayings from the Gospel of John each Thursday, and NCM Iron Chef Ellensburg was a great success October 19.

As we look forward, there are a couple things you can join us in prayer for. One, November 2-4 is our annual NCM Fall Conference. The theme this year is "Living Hope," and we will both learn about and thank God for the hope we have in Jesus. Because He lives, we too can live! Pray that God will empower us to lead people in worship, and that each one present will grow closer to God through His Spirit. There are so many great reasons to go away together, and when we worship God this benefit is multiplied!

Our annual NCM Thanksgiving Feast is coming up November 17. "Friendsgiving" is a great time to celebrate the family God has given us away from home, here in Ellensburg. Pray that students will invite lots of their friends, and that each one will know God's love through the evening spent together. Check in with Jeremy, Stacia or one of the students for more information on Friendsgiving or anything else college ministry.

## Christmas Choir

Choir rehearsals are going really well, and we want to invite you to come and share in the celebration **December 9**, beginning at 6pm. Our Chestnut Preschoolers, Sunday School kids and adults will all share music with us, and we will have some group singing time too. Come and enjoy the show, and bring cookies to share in the Fellowship Hall afterward!



## Pastor Jeremy's Update: East Asia Mission

Thank you all so much for praying for me as I embarked on a vision trip to East Asia. God took me there, and back again, and the thoughts and experiences while there are still overwhelming me. In a few short sentences, I will attempt to give a small picture of how God worked and how we may help in the future.

First of all, Nate, Emily, Titus, Dan, Heather and Sydnie all expressed grateful thanks for the gifts and cards. The CWU sweatshirts were a wonderful hit, and the gifts for the McGowns were so appreciated. While we were with the McGowns, day after day we met potential partners in their area. Each group was inspiring and encouraging to us, as we could hear and see plainly that God is moving in their lives. I'll tell you about two: one was on our first day of meeting nationals, and one on our last.

Mae (not her real name) came to faith in May of 1989, as a 21-year-old woman. Her life had become so hopeless that she tried and failed to commit suicide. In the aftermath of her attempt, she and her sisters went to a church service, where all of them learned of and accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Because of their changed lives and passion for sharing the Gospel with their countrymen, Mae and her sisters would go door to door through their whole country village telling the story of Jesus. They were so earnest and forceful that some would try and avoid them! But the Truth was not to be held back, and many responded in the same faith that Mae and her sisters have. Long story (very) shortened, thousands of believers have come to faith over the past 30 years, started and spurred on by Mae and her family. There are many churches gathering week by week to worship as a result. And they continue to have the same vibrancy and passion for the faith that was born in them so many years ago.

Mae had shared that her mother also accepted Christ not long after the girls, and we asked about their father. As a member of the government party, it was especially difficult for him to consider Christianity. But after 15 years of seeing their changed lives and the hope they had, he too turned to Jesus and became a Christian, enjoying salvation for the last couple years of his earthly life. What a joy to hear Mae's story and to share fellowship with her husband, daughter and extended family.

Polly (also not her real name) is a polio survivor. I won't relay her whole story here, just a small snippet. After she accepted Christ as a young adult, Polly's life changed. Though her disability makes it extremely difficult to get around (her city is not ADA-compliant!), she carries with her a joy that is brought by the Spirit of God. When she was first a believer, she would walk with crutches down the street with friends while beaming the same smile we saw on her face. But people would stop and stare: not because she was disabled, but rather because a disabled person was not supposed to be happy, not supposed to be filled with joy. The call to help other disabled people in her country was impressed on her when her faith was young. And just now, many years later, God is bringing the call to fruition. She and her husband are starting a ministry for people with disabilities, in order to share the hope and life they have with others.

Pray with me for Polly and her husband, and for Mae and

her husband, as they continue to seek and serve God with their lives. I want to continue writing, to tell you about the young men and women planting churches, about my new friend Jeffrey, about gathering with believers to worship in a basement room and hearing God praised in words I could not understand. I could share Polly's husband's story of salvation and hope, and of the beauty and wonder of fellowship with Nate and Emily and Titus. And I could share about a young man who is doing ministry to his fellow university students. But you'll have to ask me about those stories another time!

I'll just share one small picture from my time with Sydnie, Dan and Heather. It was a Thursday afternoon, and we were waiting at Dan and Heather's apartment for a group of university students to come for Bible study. This semester, a couple of sophomores have been taking the lead on Bible study, and I was a welcomed guest for the day. A couple students came, then a few more, and a few more. Eventually, a group of 11: three Americans and eight nationals, were opening the Bible to read John chapter 11. In a few words I cannot adequately describe just how beautiful it was to read verse by verse the amazing story of Lazarus in two languages. Some of the students who came had never come before, and are not believers. But together we read, discussed, and translated to and from English as we shared life and the hope Jesus brought to Lazarus -- and still brings to us today.

The question remains, where do we go from here? My hope and prayer is that some from our church will be with Nate and Emily, or with Dan, Heather and Sydnie within the next 10-12 months. Pray with me as we seek God's leadership for future short-term trips. We are not sure what all that would entail, but it could include English Corner ministry, volunteering in a school, training local leaders in Bible Study or doing Campus outreach. There are lots of potential opportunities, and I am confident that God will lead us if only we have the courage to ask Him!



## Men's Ministry Events

### Monthly Breakfast

Saturday November 10th at 8 a.m. gentlemen are invited to meet in the fellowship hall to share in food and fellowship.

### Upcoming Retreat

The Central Washington Baptist Association is offering a Men's Retreat on Friday-Saturday, November 30-December 1, with the theme "What's Next?" This retreat is open to all men, and youth (ages 13-18) with an adult sponsor. It will be held at the Lazy F Camp and Retreat Center on Manastash Road. The cost is \$78.01/\$73.01 per person and includes overnight accommodations, dinner and breakfast, and access to the camps amenities. The men are asked to bring their own meat item and salsa for the chips provided for a BBQ lunch on Saturday. Those in attendance will be encouraged to be/become Men of God whose lives have an influence for Jesus as they become mentors for others. The schedule and registration page are on the table in the foyer at the CSBC facilities. Sign up as soon as you can!