

Opening Letter

by Mark Rudolph

Many years ago, when the earth was much younger, I used to run track. I started with cross-country, which I loathed. I later ran the 440 (yards), the 800, and the 880 relay. Those were events which: I did not mind, also loathed, and somewhat enjoyed, respectively.

These running events, unlike other sports I have practiced, taught me about a concept that I call the “wall”. The wall is that point through which the runner has a great deal of difficulty pushing. For me – for example – the wall was the 60-second mark in the 440. I improved relatively quickly from far-too-slow up to the 60-second mark. However, working to push through the 60-second barrier required an immense amount of discipline (and pain).

There are many areas of life that are just like running track, where we hit a “wall”. And it’s my observation that people often give up too quickly. They aren’t willing to expend the energy and bear the pain of pushing through.

Since we recently dealt with the topic of marriage from the pulpit, marriage is an apropos example. Marriages built upon unusually healthy foundations are difficult enough. More often, however, we bring a great deal of baggage with us, which makes the process of being honed through marriage even more difficult.

My experience suggests that people often quit “running the race” in their marriages at just about the time when they are begin-

ning to push through the wall. Just as a breakthrough is ready to occur — when the pain is the highest and discipline is most needed — that’s also the time when success in the marriage is just around the corner.

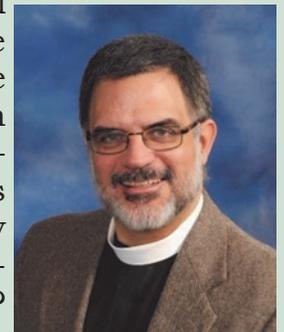
I have also seen this in the more mundane relationships between Christians. I think that there is a reason why Jesus told his disciples “by this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35), though we *are* supposed to love our enemies also (Matthew 5:44)! Why did Jesus limit the command just to his disciples? I think it’s because if the followers of Jesus ONLY loved other followers of Jesus and loved them truly, that would be such an astounding feat that no one in the world would question that it was of God.

And yet, Christians (much like the world) quit way too early in their relationships with each other. The pain and discipline of discipleship can defeat those who are nearly ready to push through the wall.

“Prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has

looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does” (James 1:22–25).

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Faith, Relationships, Mission: Introducing a Series on PEARUSA's Identity and Calling by Bishop Steve Breedlove and Laura Watts

PEARUSA is a growing movement of healthy, reproducing Anglican Churches serving the work of the Gospel in North America. We have been birthed and nurtured in the Anglican Church of Rwanda, and we are planted in the Anglican Church in North America. We bear fruit (do the work of Christ) in our local communities. PEARUSA is currently seventy churches, plus thirteen new church plants, scattered from Hawaii to Maine, from Seattle to Jacksonville. Considering the geographic and cultural spread, we're not a high-density movement (yet!).

We also know that true Christianity (the real Ancient Faith) demands that we live our faith with a goal of genuine transformation.

Imagine churches in multicultural urban settings, in university communities, in thriving suburbs, in older neighborhoods of large cities, in poor communities with downturn economies, or in small cities near military bases: you're beginning to picture the complexity of PEARUSA. If you imagine a few small start-ups, many growing adolescent parishes, some large established churches, and even a few churches seeking to be faithful to aging congregations, your mental picture is nearing completion. PEARUSA is diverse and widely spread; the communities we serve vary wildly; what the churches of PEARUSA do to "become and make disciples of the nations" is as diverse as our identity.

So what unites us? What are the common themes that show up in PEARUSA? Where does the Holy Spirit seem to be at work in power in our churches? Where is God's favor on PEARUSA for Gospel mission? What themes or "vision" are emerging in PEARUSA?

Many of PEARUSA's clergy and leaders have settled on three simple phrases to communicate our identity and ministry:

Ancient Faith, Global Relationships, Local Mission

What we practically do in ministry is obviously more concrete than those three phrases; nevertheless, most of what we do can be summarized by these basic ingredients of identity and purpose. More importantly, what happens in local settings around PEARUSA consistently combines all three ingredients in real-time ministry. "Ancient Faith, Global Relationships, Local Mission" is our spiritual DNA, expressed in creative variety as churches seek to fulfill Christ's in local settings.

Ancient Faith means PEARUSA is decidedly and unapologetically Christian, biblical, orthodox, evangelical, and Anglican. But because we are committed to Local Mission, our practice of the Ancient Faith is culturally connected, creative, and flexibly expressed, depending on local culture and need. We also know that true Christianity (the real Ancient Faith) demands that we live our faith with a goal of genuine transformation. PEARUSA churches seek actively to be more than "repositories of historic knowledge" – we are committed to become people who daily grow more like Jesus in our workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and homes.

We also are united around the conviction that Ancient Faith calls us to worship through Word, Sacrament, and Spirit. The churches of PEARUSA gather week after week, uniting in praise, prayer, and proclamation, being renewed in the same Gospel we exuberantly proclaim to the world.

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Baker Library Book Brief
By Ken Cook

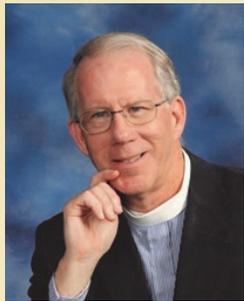
The high calling to be holy like God the Father is upon every man who has had (or will have) the privilege of becoming the father of children. For many men the realization of such a calling brings with it a sense of failure. Thankfully, though, there is the grace of God in Christ and the assurance of the indwelling Holy Spirit for those who turn in faith to the promises of their Heavenly Father. In this manner, hope and ongoing growth as a father in relationship with God takes the place of fear and failure.

There can be little doubt that Gregory W. Slayton, the author of Be a Better Dad Today! 10 Tools Every Father Needs, understands a good deal of this. He begins this book by sharing his own story as to why fatherhood is so important to him. His father was a troubled alcoholic and his parents divorced when he was a young man. He had almost no contact with his father after that. On the very rare occasions when they had an encounter over the years, his father continued to fail him. Finally, after the fact, he and his brothers found that their father had died, poor and alone.

Slayton says that “the things he had counted on throughout his life (like money and power) had completely failed him. He reaped exactly what he had sown. He was one of the saddest men I have ever known.” Fortunately, the story doesn’t end there. His best friend had a Christian father who loved his family because fatherhood mattered, and that family took Slayton in as one of their own.

Gregory W. Slayton has run an orphanage, developed micro-credit programs in south-east Asia and was a World Vision regional manager in West Africa. Later, he became a leader in Sili-

con Valley and served as the American ambassador in Bermuda. Today, he is the managing director of Slayton Capital; he has taught at Dartmouth, Harvard, Stanford and at UIBE Business School in Beijing.



He and his wife have four children. He says his world travels have enabled him to pursue the study of his vocation as his father.

I wish I had been able to read this book some 30 to 35 years ago. Nonetheless, this old dog has been able to learn some new basic things and skills which I somehow failed to grasp or apply long ago. St. Paul was really on to something when he said that in Christ “now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2). This Gospel proclamation is true and relevant even for fathers. Dads, you can start over and continue to grow as a father even now, wherever you are in the process of being conformed to Christ.

Slayton’s book is jam-packed with real-life mentoring for Dads who still need to learn. The first two “tools” are absolutely foundational. If we don’t manage to get these two right, there isn’t much likelihood that the other tools will be of any real help no matter how hard we try. Slayton says we have to have our priorities straight; see “Family First/Family Fun” (pp. 61-70) and “All-in Marriage” (pp. 71-86). Our author also calls for “True Moral Compass and True Humility”, “Heartfelt Love” and “Servant Leadership”. [Gentlemen, prepare to depend on the transforming power of the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, Romans 8:11!] Tool number 6 is “Relationship Tools that Work”, the willingness to focus upon your loved ones, to carefully listen, truly hear and relate deeply with your family. [Who would’ve think? and who couldn’t

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Global Relationships is a way of talking about PEARUSA's unusual origins in the courageous, faithful witness of the Anglican Church of Rwanda, struggling to live as Christians in a tiny African nation with an exceedingly difficult, complex story. Through this deep connection, we have learned humility and the power of weakness. We have learned loyalty to one another while we strive to grow and seek to be healed. We have been called to "walk in the light." "How is it with your soul?" is an essential question we've learned to ask one another from our Rwandan friends.

"Connectedness and collaboration" is not limited to a partnership with the Anglican Church of Rwanda: it has become a way of life for PEARUSA within the ACNA, across cultural and ethnic lines, in local communities, and even among ourselves. "Relationship, relationship, relationship" and "collaboration, collaboration, collaboration" are defining mantras we have learned through our Rwandan friends, and that infiltrates how we do Local Mission and how we pass on our Ancient Faith.

Local Mission means that every PEARUSA church is dominated by a commitment to Gospel mission. We seek to communicate the message of Christ through truth and proclamation; we seek to communicate the message of Christ through love and compassion. The people of PEARUSA work hard to live out the Gospel in thoughtful responses and conversations to the people we know and love. In terms of Local Mission, nearly every PEARUSA parish seeks to expand the work of the Gospel through active church planting and some specific form of next-generation leadership development. We are blessed to be a youthful movement.

Ancient Faith, Global Relationships, Local Mission pretty well sums it up, but it is in concrete ministries that we see how defining these themes are for our life together.

In the months ahead in City Gates* we will drill down into these themes of Ancient Faith, Global Relationships, and Local Mission on a regular basis. We'll do that either by answering broad questions (i.e., "What in the world do you mean by Ancient Faith?") or by addressing specific ministries that take our broad vision into concrete action (i.e., "stories of how Anglican worship connects vibrantly with local culture").

This series will be interspersed with editions focused on News and People, so we'll make every effort to be clear whether the edition is in this Vision Series or is a normal "News and People" edition. Among other things, the special editions will sport a different color scheme.

We're actually going to begin this series in reverse with a focus on Local Mission. Then we'll unpack Global Relationships, and finally we'll spend time discussing Ancient Faith. As a result, we'll be examining PEARUSA's identity and mission well into 2015.

We hope this series will encourage you, strengthen your faith, and help clarify your own vision for ministry in your local setting.

Bishop Steve Breedlove
Presider, PEARUSA
Laura Watts

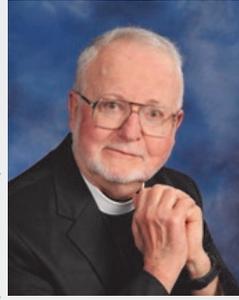
Director of Communications, PEARUSA

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Serving Two Masters?

By Bill Kenney



In the Gospel reading assigned for September 28th (Matthew 6:24-34) Jesus warns us of the anxiety and frustration that await us each time we try the age-old trick of serving two masters; both God and Mammon. I suggest that Mammon be thought of as a catch-all word for our strongest urge as it seeks to compete with God for first place in our list of loves and loyalties. Jesus cites as examples the urge to feel safe and secure by stockpiling a cache of fine food and beverages or by outfitting ourselves afresh each season's latest fashion, demonstrating our exquisite taste and our financial wherewithal.

This is the setting when Jesus mentions the lilies of the field in their gorgeous bloom. They are breathtaking, indeed, but only for a day or so. They are dead, gone and forgotten in no time. Their allotted span of life and their purpose within God's creation is completed fully. There remains nothing more.

Jesus contrasts this brevity with God's intention for our eternity. We know he has given his Son to live and then to die within an allotted span of time. But His story has not ended like that of the lilies of the field. His story triumphs in His resurrection and return to the Father. Our human story is patterned after Our Lord's, not after the life story of those eye-catching but short-lived lilies and the rest of Creation.

Those who seek after Mammon find only things that do not endure, and are doomed to anxiety and frustration automatically.

Jesus did not say we should not serve both God and Mammon. He said that we cannot.

Bill

use some help with these expressions of love for the folks with whom you live?] Tool number 7 could have been first on the list, but then Slayton is a wily teacher and not a theologian or pastor: "Heaven's Help". Tool number 8 is "Other Good Dads", a resource upon which most of us have not drawn enough. The last two tools are an "Optimistic, Never-Surrender Attitude" and "Dynamic, Whole-Person Support" for all the needs your family has. Slayton considers fatherhood the "Journey of a Lifetime": "God's not through with you yet!" [You will need to consider pp. 23-57 to learn the specifics of what he means.] Thankfully, he also considers "special situations" in the concluding four chapters of his book. Moms, you might want to give Be a Better Dad Today! as a Father's Day gift. In the meantime, a copy will soon be added to our congregational library.

Ken

October Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 11th
Women's Tea

Sunday, October 19th
Operation Christmas
Shoebox Party

More details on page 6.



As If Upon Eagle's Wings
 @2014 Linda Barrett

Rise up Rise up Rise up As if on Eagle's wings.

He gives us the energy to rest and rely upon him.
 He strengthens the weak hearted and the weak kneed
 and makes them rise again, rise up rise up rise up as if on Eagle's
 wings.
 With his power, the old men run as strong as the young ones.
 They will run and not be weary or faint.
 Wait upon the Lord, I say, wait.
 He will give you wisdom
 He will give you the power.
 Wait upon Him and you will-
 rise up, rise up, rise up as if upon eagle's wings.
 He gives us His provision even in the smallest things-
 so that we can rise up, rise up, rise up as if upon eagle's wings.
 He gives us the power to conquer our enemies
 with a sling and three small stones.
 In the face of your biggest battle,
 you will not be alone.

Rise up, Rise up, Rise up, as if upon eagle's wings.
 In the deepest darkness,
 He will be a pillar of light to keep you on your path.
 Rise up, rise up, rise up as if upon eagle's wings.
 He gives you wealth more precious than the ones from exalted
 kings
 and you will rise up, rise up, rise up as if upon Eagle's wings.
 He gives you strength to face whatever evils this day brings
 so you can rise up, rise up, rise up as if upon eagle's wings.
 He gives us strength to face our sufferings
 so we can rise up, rise up, rise up as if upon eagle's wings.
 He sends whatever we need as manna from heaven.
 Not one day more, not one day less,
 He provides for us all in the smallest of things
 so that we can rise up, rise up, rise up, as if upon Eagle's wings.



Dates, Deadlines and Details

Sunday, October 5th	Party Preparation
Sunday, October 12th	Gifts and Cash Donations are due.
Wednesday, October 15th Begins 11:30 am. Bring a brown bag lunch.	Party Preparation
Sunday, October 19th following 9:00 am. Service	It's Shoe Box Party Time!
Sunday, November 9th	Personally packed shoeboxes are due.

We ask our congregation to pray for:

- the success of this holiday project;
- and all individuals who support this endeavor here and abroad.



It is hard work and it yields blessing (happiness, in other words). It is no accident of linguistics that the words “discipline” and “disciple” sound similar to each other! We find that we are repeatedly put into positions where we must either confess Christ “not only with our lips, but in our lives”, or we must face the fact that we are not willing to be truly followers of Jesus. (continued from Page 1)

Yours truly can certainly bear witness to these things, even as he writes these words. However, he can also bear witness to the increasing freedom that comes from letting go of the things on which he had placed his trust in the past and grasping hold of the Lord Jesus only. Has he pushed through the wall yet? No! Yet, he certainly does not intend to stop running the race (Hebrew 12:1)!

These are not new ideas. Some of my favorite hymns and poems deal with the idea of being a follower of Jesus, even in hardship. Here is a short list.

- John Bunyan’s poem “Who would true valor see”, written as the hymn “He who would valiant be” in the 1940 Hymnal.
- The 23rd Psalm “even if I walk through the valley of the shadow of death ...”
- The story of Isaac being taken by his father to be sacrificed in Genesis 22 is a rich example of a willing disciple.
- The song “A Mighty Fortress” was written by Martin Luther while under the threat of death. He wrote, “They are taking body, property, honor, children, and wife. Let them go. They who take them have obtained no advantage (over me). The kingdom shall nevertheless remain ours” (my translation). Note that this is a far bolder statement than the standard English translation.
- Amy Carmichael’s poem “Flame of God”, which begins, “From prayer that asks that I may be, sheltered from winds that beat on Thee ...”
- Perhaps my favorite is the poem “Canst Thou Drink” by Studdart-Kennedy, an English military chaplain during WW I.

In the months to come, you will be hearing more about the Discovery Bible Studies and how those teach us about true discipleship. We will be mentioning books like “Not a Fan” and “Are You a Christian, or a Disciple?”.

In the meantime, ask yourself, “Am I a *follower* of Jesus? Or am I a fan, an acquaintance, a club member?”. Peace and joy in this life depend on your answer. Your eternity depends on it, too!



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2014						
5 7:45 am Holy Communion-Parlor 9:00 am Holy Communion in Sanctuary 11:00 am Pot Luck-Oriental Treats & Children's Choir 11:00 am Shoebox Party Prep 1:45 pm Abington Life Chain	6 7:30 pm Gospel of John Study-SJ Office	7 9:30 am Staff Meeting - SJ Office 7:30 pm Christian Ed Mtg SJ-W	8 9:00 am Holy Communion in Sanctuary 10:00 am Women's Bible Study-Parlor 7:00 pm Community Prayer Group-Parlor	9 6:30 am Men's Bible Study S-J-Office 11:00 am Redeemer Village Communion 6:00 pm ALPHA @ Giant Super-market 7:30 pm Adult Choir-Music Room	10 9:30 am Caregivers SJ-Office	11 10:00 am Women's Tea-Hall
12 7:45 am Holy Communion-Parlor 9:00 am Holy Communion in Sanctuary 10:45 am Christian Education-Hall 5:00 pm Community Life Group	13 7:00 pm Eve Women's Fellowship Abington 7:30 pm Gospel of John Study-SJ Office 7:30 pm Table Talk Fellowship	14 9:30 am Staff Meeting - SJ Office 7:30 pm Vestry Meeting-SJ Office	15 9:00 am Holy Communion in Sanctuary 10:00 am Women's Bible Study-Parlor 11:30 am Shoe Box Party Prep Hall 7:00 pm Community Prayer Group-Parlor 7:30 pm Stepping Up-A Call to Courageous Manhood	16 6:30 am Men's Bible Study S-J-Office 11:30 am Shoe Box Party Prep Hall 6:00 pm ALPHA @ Giant Super-market 7:30 pm Adult Choir-Music Room	17 11:30 am Shoe Box Party Prep Hall	18 11:30 am Shoe Box Party Prep Hall
19 7:45 am Holy Communion-Parlor 9:00 am Holy Communion in Sanctuary 10:30 am Children's Choir-Music Rm 10:30 am Xmas Shoebox Party-Hall 11:00 am Outreach Committee-Parlor	20 7:30 pm Gospel of John Study-SJ Office	21 9:30 am Staff Meeting - SJ Office 7:00 pm Women's Eve. Bible Study Chalfont	22 9:00 am Holy Communion in Sanctuary 10:00 am Women's Bible Study-Parlor 7:00 pm Community Prayer Group-Parlor	23 6:30 am Men's Bible Study S-J-Office 6:00 pm ALPHA @ Giant Super-market 7:30 pm Adult Choir-Music Room	24 Evangelist Articles Due	25
26 7:45 am Holy Communion-Parlor 9:00 am Holy Communion in Sanctuary 10:45 am Christian Education-Music Rm 5:00 pm Community Life Group	27 7:00 pm Eve Women's Fellowship 7:30 pm Gospel of John Study-SJ Office 7:30 pm Table Talk Fellowship	28 9:30 am Staff Meeting - SJ Office	29 9:00 am Holy Communion in Sanctuary 10:00 am Women's Bible Study-Parlor 7:00 pm Community Prayer Group-Parlor	30 6:30 am Men's Bible Study S-J-Office 5:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal 6:00 pm ALPHA @ Giant Super-market 7:30 pm Adult Choir-Music Room	31 3:00 pm Wedding	

