

# Make Church a Part of Your Life

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

### “Don’t focus on God’s challenges, but focus on God’s blessings”

By Larry Lyles, Senior Minister, Norton Christian Church

Have you broken those New Year’s resolutions yet? Well let me encourage you to do one thing in 2012, “Don’t Focus on God’s Challenges, but focus on God’s Blessings!”

Let me take just a little inventory of my own life, and you can compare it to yours. Let me just look over some of the blessing of God in my life.

**My Parents:** My Mom and Dad are two of the most impressive parents a kid could be given. My Dad passed away just this week, and as I have been reflecting over his life, his influence on me was huge. He taught me how to love and follow the Lord with my life. Without just normal church going Christian parents, where would I be? Now there were times I wanted to trade them away, but if I am honest as I count my blessings, God did me a huge favor in this area of life.

**My Mate:** It is a fact that is probably true for you, but can you believe that my mate knows all of my flaws, warts and all, and still loves me and has partnered with me in life for more than 30 years? As I look at her love, and am honest about myself, I understand God’s love even more. Now there have been times in those 30 years we both were ready to trade each other in, but those moments passed, and I would have to say, God did me a great favor when He lead me to my mate.

**My Kids:** As they have grown into adults, it is a fact that they didn’t always do things Dad’s way, or even the Lord’s way. In that respect, you could say they are a chip off the old block! But they have grown into great people, that though God is not finished with them yet, their

dear old Dad is still prayerfully supportive of their lives. Wow, what an education being a parent has been! God, there have been and there will be more trying days as a parent, but oh how you have blessed my life through my kids!

**My Church:** It goes without saying, that my church is not perfect, after all it is made up of a whole bunch of sinners just like me. We are all saved by His grace, and seeking His face, but by no means is this church all that I hoped it

would be. But where would I be without my church? So many times I really wonder what people that are regular and faithful within the church do when they don’t have a body of believers holding them accountable and being an example to them. Lord, I am so very thankful for my church!

**My Home:** When I look around the place there are several places that have problems at the house. There are things that need updating and replacing. But recently after

being gone from home for 10 straight days, I know without a doubt, “there is no place like home.” There is even no place like my own bed. God, thank you for my home!

**My Job:** Some days when I come to work, I would love to just give my job to someone else and just walk away. Let someone else come in and take on all these tasks. But then there are the days when my job is so rewarding and meaningful. I know that the Lord created me to do this one job, and do it to the best of my ability. God, you have me doing exactly what you want me to be doing.

Well, what is your outlook on life? Are you focusing on God’s challenges, or do you see God’s blessings?

The old story is told of two shoe salesmen that were sent to a foreign land with the task of selling shoes. The first wrote back to his company, “Cancel all my orders. No one in this place wears shoes!” While the second salesman who went to a different area in the same place wrote back, “Triple my order! It is unbelievable, but no one in this country has shoes!”

Read Philipians sometimes and try to remember that Paul said all these things in jail. “Consider others better than yourselves. Forgetting what is behind and straining for what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward. Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice. I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.” Lord help me to realize all the blessing of God, no matter what my circumstances!

### MAKE SOMEONE’S DAY



When was the last time someone beamed at you and said, “You made my day!”? Whatever’s going on, it is important to realize that we never know when we might be making a life-altering impact with a small kindness or an extra consideration. God may be using us for His particular purpose. Would you like to learn more about God working through you? Worship at His House this week, it will make your day!

Weekly Scripture Reading

Mark 6:30-56

Mark 7:24-37

Mark 8:1-26

Mark 8:27-9:13

Mark 9:14-32

Mark 9:33-50

Mark 10:1-31

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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## Crossroads Church welcomes new pastor



James and Darlene Kallenberg

Crossroads Church of Norton announced this month that James Kallenberg was called to be the church’s new pastor, effective Jan. 1.

Kallenberg has served seven churches in Minnesota, Michigan and Colorado. He and his wife, Darlene, have two adult children, Ruthann and Michael, who live in Denver, Colo. Michael is married to Karen and together they have one son and are expecting a daughter in February. The Kallenbergs enjoy a close relationship with

their children and always look forward to time with their children and grandchildren.

Darlene enjoys working as an in-home and assisted living caregiver. For James, his passion has always been preaching and teaching, so together, the Kallenbergs have formed a team committed to teaching and loving people.

Crossroads Church, located at 315 Lincoln Street, holds worship services each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

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## •PUBLIC NOTICE•

### NOTICE OF HEARING

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, January 13, January 20 and January 27, 2012 (3T)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS  
In The Matter of the Application of CASSIE MAE FIELD to Change Name

Case No. 2012 CV 02  
NOTICE OF HEARING TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN - GREETING:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the above-named Cassie Mae Field has filed her petition in the above-named Court praying for judgment and decree changing her name to that of “Cassie

Mae Lowry” and that said petition will be heard by said Court in the Courtroom on the third floor of the Norton County Courthouse, Norton, Kansas on the 13th day of February, 2012 at 1:30 o’clock p.m. and you are hereby required to plead to the petition on or before that time. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

Cassie Mae Field, Petitioner  
Melissa M. Schoen #32220  
Attorney at Law  
213 S. Kansas, P.O. Box 427  
Norton, KS 67654  
(785) 877-3086  
Attorney for Petitioner

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