

Your greatest weakness could be greatest strength

It was a nice clear Sunday morning in June. I was there to do a summer internship with the youths of the church. I was full of expectation and passion as I moved into that small community.

Mind you I was young, a full two decades of experience on this vast planet of ours. I didn't know much about the church, just that some of their youths had attended a summer camp that my home church in Colorado had put on.

You know those churches in the backwoods of Kentucky that do the rattle snake handling? Well, they didn't do that at this small church, but as I looked around, I noticed several men were missing an arm. I thought to myself, "Self, you best behave while you are here, because it appears that these folks are literal about, 'If your left hand causes you to sin, cut it off.'"



steve rains

● moments from calvary

They weren't that way — it was farming accidents — but for a second I wondered. As I think about that experience, let me share this story with you today.

Sometimes your biggest weakness can become your biggest strength. Take, for example, the story of one 10-year-old boy who decided to study judo despite the fact he had lost his left arm in a devastating car accident. The boy began lessons with an old Japanese judo master. The boy was doing well, so he couldn't understand why, after

three months of training, the master had taught him only one move.

"Sensei," (the martial arts term used for the instructor), the boy finally said, "Shouldn't I be learning more moves?"

"This is the only move you know, but this is the only move you'll ever need to know," the sensei replied.

Not quite understanding, but believing in his teacher, the boy kept training. Several months later, the sensei took the boy to his first tournament. Surprising himself, the boy easily won his first two matches. The third match proved to be more difficult, but after some time, his opponent became impatient and charged; the

boy deftly used his one move to win the match. Still amazed by his success, the boy was now in the finals.

This time, his opponent was bigger, stronger and more experienced. For a while, the boy appeared to be overmatched. Concerned that the boy might get hurt, the referee called a time-out.

He was about to stop the match when the sensei intervened. "No," the sensei insisted, "Let him continue."

Soon after the match resumed, his opponent made a critical mistake: he dropped his guard. Instantly, the boy used his move to pin him. The boy had won the match and the tournament. He was the champion.

On the way home, the boy and sensei reviewed every move in each and every match. Then the boy summoned the courage to ask what was really on his mind. "Sensei, how did I win the tournament with only one move?"

"You won for two reasons," the sensei answered. "First, you've almost mastered one of the most difficult throws in all of judo. Second, the only known defense for that move is for your opponent to grab your left arm."

The boy's biggest weakness had become his biggest strength.

The Word of God gives us some good perspective on this topic, for it says in Psalm 119:66-68: "Teach me what I should know to be right and fair for I believe in Your Law. Before I suffered I went the wrong way, but now I obey Your Word. You are good and You do good. Teach me Your Law."

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 has this to say: "... but to keep me from getting puffed up, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from

getting proud. Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, 'My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness.' So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may work through me. Since I know it is all for Christ's good, I am quite content with my weaknesses and with insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

May God give you the grace to see your situation through His eyes and strength instead of yours!

Have a fabulous weekend, and remember you are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Steve Rains is the pastor at the Calvary Gospel Church, Fourth and College. Go to the church's web site at calvarygospel.net or e-mail Rains at calvarycolumn@st-tel.net.

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:
May 21 — Uros Petrovic, \$138 for speeding.
May 22 — Kenneth D. Pierce, \$126 for speeding.
May 23 — Chad W. Lyne, \$126

for unlawful acts with vehicle.
 Elizabeth C. Tiani, \$174 for speeding.
May 24 — Jason L. Bleisch, \$132 for speeding.
 Johnnie J. Howard, \$210 for improper parking.
 John E. Keyser, \$144 for

speeding.
 Nicholas M. Plowman, \$156 for

speeding.
 Phat Sayavong, \$156 for

speeding.
 Lily B. Stroud, \$192 for speeding.

May 25 — Silverio V. Becerra, \$96 for speeding.

kansas classifieds

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AUCTIONS

ABSOLUTE AUCTION. '51 & '52 Ford Pickups, '67 Mustang, All equipment, tools, parts & fixtures. Allen's Auto Repair. 4312 W. Central, Wichita, KS. www.mcbrideauction.com, 1-877-728-7253.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

ALL CASH CANDY ROUTE. Do you earn \$800 in a day? Your own local candy route. Includes 30 Machines and Candy. All for \$9995. 1-888-753-3441.

EDUCATIONAL

MISSOURI WELDING INSTITUTE, INC. Nevada, Missouri. Become a Certified Pipe and Structural Welder. Earn top pay in 18 weeks. Many companies seek our graduates. 1-800-667-5885.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Earn Up To \$550 Weekly. Helping the Government PT, No experience needed. Call Today! 1-800-488-2921. Ask for Department M. \$87 fee required.

FOR SALE

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HELP WANTED

DEFEND FREEDOM \$15,000 Prior Service Bonus. Up to \$20,000 Non-Prior Service Bonus. Join Our Team! Kansas Army National Guard 1-800-464-8273. www.kansasarmynationalguard.com.

Get Crane Trained! Crane/Heavy Equip. Training. National Certification Prep. Placement Assistance - Financial Assistance. \$12-\$55/hr Starting Pay. Oklahoma College of Construction. www.OK-CC.com. 1-866-726-0577.

Part-time, home-based internet business. Earn \$500 - \$1000/month or more. Flexible hours. Training provided. No investment required. Free details. www.K348.com.

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Class A Drivers. You've got the drive. We've got the direction. Pre-pass Ez-pass. Every 60K miles raises. 2006 and newer equipment. 100% NO touch. 1-800-528-7825.

Drivers - Flatbed Drivers Needed. Average \$1,001/wk Gross. Home Often. 379 Long Nose Petes. \$1,000 Sign-On Bonus. 866-290-1568 www.apassmore.com.

Drivers: \$2000 Sign On Bonus! Copp Transportation seeks drivers with 1+ yrs experience for runs to TX and southeast. Assigned tractors, with all miles paid. No touch freight and great benefits. Contact Bill at (913) 422-1711 or 800-418-2677.

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LEGAL SERVICES

Social Security disability claims; Saunders & Saunders Attorneys at Law. No recovery, No fee! 1-800-259-8548.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Shrine Bowl, July 28, Hays, Benefiting Shriners Hospitals for Children. 1.800.530.5524, ksshine.com. 5K, Poker Run, Arts & Crafts Fair, HS Combine, All-Star Football.

STEEL BUILDINGS FOR SALE

20x8x8; 40x8x8; 48x8.5x9.5 SHIPPING CONTAINERS. Camlock doors, hardwood floors support forklift. Delivery available. 1-785-655-9430 Solomon; 620-277-2367 Garden City. www.chuckhenry.com complete web listing, photos, specs, pricing.

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SHRINE BOWL, HAYS, 7/28/07

Family Fun, Excitement, and Activities Galore!

5K Run*Free Shriners Hospitals for Children Screening Clinic*Arts & Crafts Fair*Kids Fair*Free Shrine Parade*High School Combine*1 Mile Fun Run/Walk*Charity Poker Run for Autos and Cycles*All-Star Cheerleaders*All-State Marching Band*All-Star High School Football Game.

Information: 800-530-5524 or ksshine.com

Benefiting: SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN

Worship warms the heart

Calvary Gospel Church

Pastor: Steve Rains, Ben Coats, youth pastor
 Fourth & College • 890-3605
Sunday: Kid's Church: 10:30 am
 Morning Service: 10:30 am
 Evening Service: 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Royal Rangers Missionettes 6:30 p.m.
 Adult mid-week service: 7:00 p.m.
 Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.
 Small Group Ministries meets through out the week.
 www.calvarygospel.net

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Pastor: Father Norbert Diabal
 307 W. 13th • 890-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
 4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment
Mass Schedule:
Saturday: 6 pm, **Sunday:** 10:30 am
Spanish Mass:
 Sunday: 12:30 pm



Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398
Minister: Charles E. Kerr, Jr.
Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am
 Sunday School: 10:45 am
 Team Puppeteers: 6 pm
Wednesday:
 Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
 Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm
 Jets, 4th grade and under: 3:30 - 4:30

Word of Life

Joursquare Church
 10th & Clark • 899-5250
Pastor: John Coumerilh
Sunday: Worship Celebration
 and Kids' Church: 10:30 am
 Wednesday: K.W.A.M.!
 Age 3 through grade 6, 6:30 p.m.
 (during school year)

Pleasant Home Church

Serving the rural community
 for over 100 years
 Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70
Pastor: Charlie Busch
 694-2242
Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am
 Sunday School: 10 am
 Evening Service: 6 pm

Bible Baptist Church

Pastor: Michael Estep
 Fifth & Broadway
 890-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
 Morning Service: 10 am
 Evening Service: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO
 (719) 346-7984
Sacrament Meeting: 10 am
Sunday School: 11:15 am
Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 am

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo
 Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
 1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru
 Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

United Methodist Church

Brewster:
Pastor: Dorine Chambers
 Worship Service: 10:45 am CST
 Sunday School: 9:45 am CST
Winona:
Minister: Sheryl Johnson
 Worship Service: 9 am CST
 Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)
Pastor: Rev. Ted Amos
 Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups,
 Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups,
 Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship
Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing
 Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler
 Nurseries Available

Kanorado

United Methodist Church
Pastor: Leonard Cox
 399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
 Worship Service: 10:15 am

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Bob Willis
 Third & Caldwell
 899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
 Worship Service: 10:50 am
 Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman 899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Janet Hernandez
Saturday: Worship: 5:30 pm
Sunday: Adult Classes: 9:15 am
 Worship: 10:30 am
Wednesday: Wednesday Nite Live
 5:45 - 6:45 Simple Supper "Free will Offering
 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor: Chad DeJong
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:30 am
 Morning Worship: 10:45 am
 Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: AWANA (Winter)
 and prayer: 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church

Pastor: Travis Blake
 Bateman's Funeral Home, 211 E. 11th
 890-3450
Sunday: Sunday School for all ages:
 9:30 am (Child care provided)
 Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Thursday: Bible study 9:30 a.m.
 Wheatridge Center

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center
 Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969
Priest: Father Hal Lycett
Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m. Sunday
 10:00 a.m. Thursday
Morning Prayer: 8:00 a.m. Wed. - Sun.
 For emergencies 890-6969

Harvest Evangelical Free Church

104 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-7918
Pastor: Brian Fugleberg
Sunday: Worship: 10:30 am
 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Youth group
 meets at 7 p.m.
 at Scherlings', 827 Caldwell.

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Mike Larson
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
 Worship Service: 11 am

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 890-6161
Sunday: Christian education/fellowship:
 10:15 a.m.
 Worship Service: 9 am
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Church of Christ

401 Caldwell
 890-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
 Worship Service: 10:45 am
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

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