

What type of bird would you like to be?

There is a picture in my office of an eagle making its way through a thick forest. Perhaps you have seen a similar picture. On the bottom of the picture is a quotation from Isaiah 40:31.

I love that passage of Scripture as it says beginning in verse 29, "He (the Lord) gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not by faint."

No matter who you are, we have all identified with parts of that passage of Scripture. You know, the weariness, feeling weak, being tired, stumbling and falling through



steve rains

• moments from calvary

life.

Perhaps you can identify with that old television commercial about the individual who fell and couldn't get up.

Maybe that is how you feel right now? You have been hit with a situation and you are feeling pretty weak kneed as you look at your circumstances. I know we all want to be self sufficient and independent minded, after all that is how our neck of the woods was settled. That pioneer spirit!

There is one problem with that. Who is going to pick you up? You say, "I do just fine by myself thank you. Leave your preaching to Sunday." Well, here is what I want you to see.

You can try to pick yourself up, but understand you are still going to have a ground level view, while God would rather give you an aerial perspective.

Do you know one of the things that excites me about this passage of Scripture? God likens the person who would live in Him to an eagle. The most majestic of all birds and God says you will be like that bird. I believe God's plan for those that

would follow after Him is to soar gracefully through life. We know that every day presents different situations, but like the eagle when a storm comes we don't turn and hide, we use the wind currents of the approaching storm to rise above it.

Like the eagle, we would have keen eyesight to understand the times in which we live.

Do you see yourself as an eagle? Perhaps it is another bird? There are lessons to learn from other birds too.

Do you know any parrots? Parrots are talkers! Always talking, always repeating what someone else said. The problem with parrots is they don't rise above the storm. They talk so much the storm gets worse.

What about the KooKoo bird? Do you know what the kookoo bird

does? It waits for another bird to build a nest, and then it high jacks the nest, and lays its eggs in that nest. After laying the eggs it takes off never to return.

Leaving responsibilities to others and not fulfilling obligations. It is crazy how that happens sometimes. The greatest things an individual can do after they have gone kookoo is fess up, and begin to set the situation right.

Here is another, the buzzard? A buzzard finds the wounded or dead and rips them apart. Do you find yourself ripping more than helping? In a world were the negative is supposedly what sells and is news worthy, lets turn the channel and bring forth healing.

One more bird, it is the peacock. The peacock is known for its beauti-

ful feathers, but it carries itself like it knows its beauty. They are the see me notice me types.

While the eagle soars and isn't afraid of solitude. The peacock's goal is to be recognized. Jesus said if you are doing things for the applause of man, and the recognition of man then your reward is really small, and really temporary.

Well, that is enough bird talk today. I want to encourage you to live the high life! Find yourself in the cliff of the rock, and enjoying the Son, and when it comes time spread your wings and fly.

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.

Kansas House passes energy bill by 75-47 margin

The big news last week was House passage of the energy bill (SB 327) to allow the building of the two coal-fired power plants at Holcomb by a 75-47 margin.

The vote was not large enough to make it veto proof and there is a good chance that Gov. Kathleen Sebelius will veto the bill, leaving it up to the Legislature to try to override her actions. The Senate passed it with the two-thirds needed margin to override, but the test will be to see if a few more votes can be gathered in the House.

Here is a brief summary of the House plan:

- Establishes energy efficiency requirements for state buildings and equipment. All new and renovated state buildings must exceed national energy efficiency standards; requires appliances, computers and the like purchased by the state to be at least as energy efficient as Energy Star devices; require property leased by the state to meet energy efficiency standards.
- Creates the Kansas Electric Generation Science and Technology Commission.
- Requires using the best available control technologies to implement carbon dioxide capture.
- Sets a Renewable Resources Standard. By 2012, at least 10 percent of the three-year average peak load of electric public and cooperative utilities must be from renewable resources, increasing to 15 percent by 2016 and to 20 percent by 2020.

- Establishes the Net Metering and Easy Connection Act. Defines net metering as the use of metering equipment to measure the difference between the electric energy supplied to a customer and the electric energy supplied by a customer; customers would be billed for any excess energy provided in excess of the amount generated by the customer. Customers would receive credit applied to the succeeding billing period, at least equal to 150 percent of the avoided energy cost, for electricity generated in excess of that provided by the utility.
- Clarifies the roles and duties of those involved in the regulatory process.
- Creates tax incentives for energy-efficient improvements of monowner occupied housing. Tax credits would be available in 2008 and 2009.
- Requires mercury emission reduction of 80 percent by generating units that began operation after Jan. 1 and that use coal to produce over 10 percent of their heat input

New Transparency Website
As you may remember, we have made budget transparency a top priority. March 1, a new state budget website went live at www.kansas.gov/kanview/.

Immigration
Sen. Pete Brungardt said Thursday he opposes efforts to repeal a state law that allows in-state tuition for some undocumented students.



jim morrison

• capitol review

"That's a nonstarter, I think," said Brungardt, a Salina Republican and chairman of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee.

His committee is considering Senate Bill 458, which proponents say will reduce the number of illegal immigrants in Kansas. Opponents say the bill is an onerous, unworkable reaction to immigration concerns that should be tackled on the federal level. Hearings are complete and the bill is likely to be worked this week.

One provision of the bill would repeal a 2004 law that allows the children of some illegal immigrants to pay the same lower tuition rates as legal Kansans at state universities, community colleges and vocational schools. Under the law, the student must have lived in Kansas at least three years, graduated from a Kansas high school and seek or promise to seek legal status.

Numerous attempts have been made to undo that law since its enactment, but they have all failed. I originally supported (but now do NOT support) the legislation to encourage immigrants to continue with their naturalization.

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Brungardt said the law should stand. "I don't know why anybody would change their established re-

cord on that topic." I guess he needs to talk with me.

Rep. Jim Morrison of Colby

serves Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan and Graham counties. Write him at State Capitol Building, Room

242W, Topeka, Kan. 66612; call him at (785) 296-7676; or e-mail jmorrison@ink.org

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

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307 W. 13th • 890-7205
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Saturday: 6 pm, **Sunday:** 10:30 am
Spanish Mass:
Sunday: 12:30 pm

Word of Life

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10th & Clark • 899-5250
Pastor: John Coumerilh
Associate Pastor: Ben Coumerilh
Sunday: Worship Celebration and Kids' Church: 10:30 am
Life Groups - call for times and locations
www.wordoflifegoodland.org

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Pastor: Perry Baird
890-3375
Sunday: Worship Service: 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Evening Service: 6 p.m.

Bible Baptist Church

Pastor: Clifford Middlebrooks
Fifth & Broadway
890-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Morning Service: 10 a.m.
Evening Service: 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

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

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

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

United Methodist Church Brewster

Pastor: Dorine Chambers
Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST
Winona:
Minister: Sheryl Johnson
Worship Service: 9 a.m. 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 a.m.
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 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.

Church of the Nazarene

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

First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman 899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Kasey Crosby
Saturday: Worship: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: Adult Classes: 9:15 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Wednesday Nite Live
5:45 - 6:45 p.m. 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 a.m.
Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship: 6 p.m.
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 a.m. (Child care provided)
Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.
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: Daily, 8 a.m. Thursday and Sunday
For emergencies 890-6969

Harvest Evangelical Free Church

104 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-7918
Pastor: Brian Fugleberg
Sunday: Worship: 10:30 a.m.
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 a.m.
Worship Service: 11 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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

Church of Christ

401 Caldwell
890-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 p.m.

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