

Are you going to fly or are you staying grounded?

I was reminded in a conversation the other day of a series of messages that we did at Calvary several years ago.

We took the majestic Bald Eagle, the bird that is our great nation's symbol, and drew some metaphors in our relationship with God.

I would like to share some of them with you. Perhaps you have heard the story of the egg that was found in the turkey pen.

The egg hatched, and as the chick grew, it kept a watchful eye on the adults around him, learning the art of scratching and pecking the ground.

One day as he was going about his daily routine, he peered upward to the sky and noticed some majestic birds soaring above. With his keen vision, he realized that he looked more like them than he did his adopted family.



steve rains

● moments from calvary

Now a new dilemma of trying to learn to fly or staying grounded was before him. The eagle that was raised by turkeys opted for the lifestyle of less resistance and stayed grounded in the turkey pen.

Does that sound like your relationship with God? God says, "Come and soar," while habits, routine and peers say, "Stay down here and scratch and peck."

As we get started with this column today, I want to ask you a question. Don't just aimlessly answer without thought, but wrestle with it. Here it is: Do you actually believe that you

can have a personal relationship with God?

Is that possible? Because, friend, if it is possible, if that is true, then it should be the most powerful life-changing relationship that you have ever encountered in your life. Think about that! That should be life-transforming and life-shaping. So are you ready to soar, or do you just want to scratch?

One of the most well-known Scriptures in the Bible dealing with eagles is found in Isaiah 40:31, why don't you read it, it's in the Old Testament.

Understand, prior to this passage of Scripture, Israel had forgotten that God was pursuing them. As many know, any healthy relation-

ship has two sides to it, and both sides should be pursuing each other.

Listen friend, God is not tired of you, he isn't sick of you. He doesn't want you to get lost and go away. He doesn't grow weary of who you are. He doesn't wish you would leave him alone. The fact of the matter is God is pursuing you. He wants a relationship with you. That is a powerful truth.

Let me give you a quick lesson about eagle courtship from Kenneth Price's book "The Eagle Christian." The male pursues the female eagle. The male sees a female that catches his eye, and he goes after her. As they are soaring, the male gets right behind her in the fly zone.

When the female realizes what is happening, she will dart and dive and maneuver like a top gun pilot. While she is doing all this, the male is focused and alert staying right

with her. If he doesn't fly at the level she is able to fly, she says "bye!"

Let's draw a spiritual parallel and put God as that pursuer. You may try to do your own things, you may try to dart away, but God is pursuing you, and you know it. He is in your vapor trail, because you and I can't out-fly God. His plan is that none should perish; and he wants a relationship with you.

Do you ever make it difficult for God: Like taking matters into your own hands? Seeking the council of others before seeking the council of God? Not listening? Blaming God rather than depending on God? Or, maybe it is just getting too busy?

Rest is available to you, but you have to get it. God offers you and is willing to give you the power. Isaiah 40:29 says, "He gives power to those who are tired and worn out; he offers strength to the weak."

If that is not a picture of where a lot of people are at, I don't know what is. Look what it says next, Isaiah 40:29-31, "He gives power to those who are tired and worn out; he offers strength to the weak. Even youths will become exhausted, and young men will give up. But those who wait (Those who wait with expectancy, with anticipation) on the Lord will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."

Next week, we will switch from the pursued to the pursuer, because both are necessary in this great adventure. Until then, the flight deck is cleared for take-off.

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

Municipal Court

These are cases decided by the Goodland Municipal Court:

Aug. 31: Becky L. Finnell, speeding 50-40, fined \$90.

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

July 28 — Raquel B. Duck, \$132 for improper parking.

July 29 — Michael J. Bommarito, \$156 for speeding.

Rafael Fernandez-Ruiz, dismissed for driving without a license and dismissed for unlawful use of driver's license.

Loretta A. Halliday, \$126 for speeding.

Yolanda G. Richmond, \$144 for improper parking.

Billy M. Washam, \$138 for improper parking.

July 30 — Hosea D. Barnes, \$114 for overweight load.

Travis R. Howard, \$120 for speeding.

Sarah J. McCurdy, \$132 for speeding.

Douglas C. Osness, \$126 for speeding.

Dennis R. Redfield, \$138 for speeding.

Val D. Reiss, \$126 for unlawful acts with vehicle.

Kory Leonard Snow, \$188 for not

following the regulations of the motor carrier.

July 31 — Bernardo I Aguilar, \$86 for no child seat belts and dismissed for no liability insurance.

Theron Culwell, \$126 for speeding.

Caicey J. Jones, \$156 for speeding.

Grant T. McKay, \$144 for speeding.

David W. Rich, \$114 for speeding.

Troy M. Valencia, \$183 for speeding.

Aug. 1 — Oscar M. Gonzalez, \$276 for speeding.

Jordan L. Kramer, \$138 for improper parking.

Pedro R. Medina, \$132 for improper parking.

Jessie C. Moench, \$138 for improper parking.

Chauna M. Plank, \$126 for speeding.

Louis L. Torres, \$132 for speeding.

Margaret K. Wente, \$126 for speeding.

Aug. 3 — David Lamoureux, \$126 for speeding.

Aug. 5 — Raymond R. Digilio III, \$174 for speeding.

Shawn A. Helton, \$156 for speeding.

Walter L. Marlow, \$166 for mo-

tor carrier safety rules and regulations.

Laurel Smart, \$120 for speeding.

Justin T. Soltau, \$132 for speeding.

Aug. 6 — Mark E. Armstrong, dismissed for no liability insurance.

Brittney R. Brashers, \$122 for speeding.

Warehouse Auctions

Tuesday, September 26

5:00pm CDT

Wellsville Storage Auction
711 Maple St
Wellsville, KS

Wednesday, September 27

5:00pm CDT

Manhattan Warehouse Auction
8831 Quail Ln - 8845 Quail Ln
8859 Green Valley Dr - Manhattan, KS

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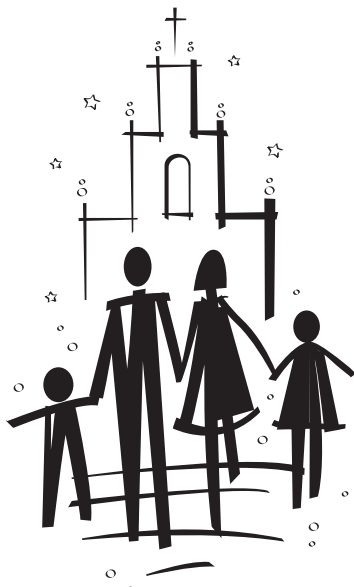
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Worship warms the heart



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: 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 Dlabal
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: 4 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

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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

United Methodist Church

Brewster:

Pastor:

Worship Service: 10:45 am CST

Sunday School: 9:45 am CST

Winona:

Minister: Rev. Bob Winters

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: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 8:30 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: Informal Worship: 5:30 pm

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

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

Fifth & Center • 890-3450

Sunday: Sunday School for all ages:

9:15 am (Child care provided)

Morning Worship: 10:30 am

Wednesday: Bible study 7 p.m.

Call church for information

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 Wed. - Sun. 890-6969

Sr. Warden for emergencies

Mon. and Tues. 890-3320

Harvest Evangelical

Free Church

104 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-7918

Pastor: Brian Fugleberg

Sunday: Worship: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday: Youth group

meets at 7 p.m.

at Scherlings', 827 Caldwell.

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail

Pastor: Jim Martin

Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am

Worship Service: 11 am

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 890-6161

Pastor: Scott Grimshaw

Sunday: Christian eduction/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

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