

January 29, 2010

Pastor Stan Powers

On Line Update



Daily Devotions Today's Bible reading: Exodus 23 & 24; Psalm 14; Acts 5

Scripture: Exodus 23:14ff *"Three times in the year you shall keep a feast to me...for seven days...three times in the year shall all your males appear before the LORD God.*

Observation As Moses outlines God's laws for the nation of Israel he lays out a plan for Sabbaths for Israel, including a weekly one, one for the land and a call for three one week festivals.

For these weeks the men were to leave their work and travel for the festivals to take time with the nation for celebration and worship to the LORD.

Application I am immediately reminded of the origin of the word 'holiday' which of course is 'holy' day! Although I don't believe that the law is applied in detail to New Testament Christianity I do believe that many of these principles are bigger than the law and need to find expression in my faith life in this age. For example, God rested on the seventh day long before the law setting precedent.

Most of us get more than one day a week off work now; and we also get numerous annual 'stats' and many people get more than three weeks of holidays on top. Our individual prosperity and ability to travel puts our idea of 'holidays' on a different wavelength than the festivals of Israel.

I do know that God intends some focus on that which is 'holy' during my time away from work. A need to dedicate time to celebrate with my faith community and worship God on a weekly basis as well as some times of personal spiritual retreat, at conferences or other faith celebrations which involve honouring the Lord.

Hello Sonrise!

Trust you are having a good week and getting ready for the Olympics!

We announced last Sunday that Andrew Pearce had resigned from his position as Minister of Student Ministries at Sonrise effective January 18th. We pray God's blessing on him and his future. Tiffany Honcoop had been working part time as an assistant to Andrew and she will step up and direct the youth ministry in the immediate future as we pray and consider the next steps for our youth ministry. We are building a strong team of volunteers to work with Tiffany for the next couple of months. Please pray with us for clear direction in future strategy. We desire God's will in all matters.

I have sensed that we need to have a special emphasis in February around fellowship at Sonrise. We haven't overdone our plans as we know that the Olympics is a big part of our lives this next month; but have a few special events to remind you of. February 3 at 7 pm is the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda, February 6 the men are hosting a Super Bowl tailgate party for everyone at 7 pm and we have a great Valentines event on February 13 with special music from Dillon & Tiffany, some comedy video routines, lots of fun and good Greek food. Get your tickets at Connections.

On Sundays we are going to focus on helping us connect with others during our worship services. We will be asking everyone to wear a name tag for four Sundays; and we will be taking a refreshment break in the middle of the service and inviting you on an assignment to meet some new people. We have a special outline of messages for the month and some testimonies and other things to help us 'connect' with others in the church family. Check out the insert this Sunday. It's going to be a blast!

See you Sunday, Pastor Stan

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