

The Discipline of Inquiry

By Scott Bruno

When Susan asked me to write about my experiences this past January regarding my kidney donation to my brother, it brought back a lot of memories, but to be honest, I don't think about it too much. I'm not sure if that's a good thing or a bad thing, but I think it's a good thing to reflect frequently on what the Lord has done in your life, or the life of your family.

Many of you at Windsor Chapel prayed for my brother Pete and I before, during, and after the surgeries (thanks!), so you know what happened. But I thought I would share a bit about some of my personal hits and misses during the experience. Hopefully you can do a better job than I did in a similar life circumstance.

Pete told my brother, sister and I about his kidney disease in the early summer last year. He described his recent doctor visits and findings (his kidney function was at 14% at that time – and dropping). It was difficult for him to talk about.

He said he was going to ultimately need a kidney to survive. (Dialysis, while fine in the short term, does not do the same job as a kidney, and has other risks, and a living donor kidney is superior to a deceased.)

He was very humbly explaining his need for a kidney, when I said over the phone "I'll do it!" My brother and sister said the same thing. Wait: no prayer, no discussion with my wife and family, no research on WebMD. Sadly, no. Uh-oh.

Now that Susan has forced me to think back on all this, what should I have done? Well, I think my love for my brother and his great need



Scott Bruno with his brother Pete, after their surgery in Emory Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia.

superseded any other thoughts at that moment. But that was probably not the right thing to do.

Flashback to a very long time ago to a couple warriors of Israel, David and Joshua. Both, at different times, inquired of the Lord, and sometimes they didn't, to disastrous results.

In 1 Samuel 30, David and his men found that their families had been kidnapped by the Amalekites. His men are so upset they threatened to kill David. In verse 8 it says: *"But David found strength in the Lord his God."* But before attacking, David asks the priest to bring him the ephod which he uses to inquire of the Lord. The message returns to David: *"Pursue them. You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue."* And that's exactly what happened.

In Joshua 9, the Israelites are claiming the land that had been promised to them and winning many battles. When the Gibeonites heard what was happening they resorted to a ruse: vs. 4-6: *"They went as a delegation whose donkeys were loaded with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended. They put worn and patched sandals on their feet and*

Continued on page 2...

"The Discipline of Inquiry," continued...

wore old clothes. All the bread of their food supply was dry and moldy. Then they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the Israelites, "We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us." And Joshua fell for it. Verse 14 says, "*The Israelites sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the Lord.*" As a result, and because of their treaty, the Israelites could not remove the Gibeonites from the land.

While my love for my brother was the only thought in my mind at the time of his request, I should have talked to the Lord about it first. What does He want me to do? I also should have asked a few close friends and my family to help me pray through this, knowing my desire to help Pete.

I missed out on an opportunity to bring something important and special before the Lord, and the chance to pray with others who care about me (and for Pete), and to hear His voice. This was my loss, and I hope it's not yours.

I John 5:14 says: "*And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.*" What a remarkable promise! I hope we will all take this to heart in every decision we make, big or small.

You've heard about my miss, now here's a couple of hits. This whole experience was a great time of bonding for my family; we all rallied together to help Pete with everyone playing a part. That first night in the hospital, all alone, I clearly felt the Lord was with me. I'll never forget it. Pete is doing well. He's been on vacation, helped his daughter move into a new apartment, and seen his youngest graduate from high school. He also just helped to land a huge contract for his company. I couldn't be happier.

[If you'd like to know more about cornea, tissue or organ donation, visit www.donatelife.net]



Walter and Diane Kennedy

On Sunday, May 7, we enjoyed a welcome visit with missionaries Walter and Diane Kennedy. Walter was our guest speaker and his message was, "**Filling the Gap—Your Part in Missions,**" based on Romans 10:13-17:

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

A special offering for the indigenous pastors in Papua, Indonesia, where the Kennedy's have served since 1984, will be taken up on Sunday, June 4. Checks may be made payable to Windsor Chapel with "Kennedy Project" in the memo line. Special offering envelopes are available for cash donations.

Join Us for These Upcoming Family Events

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to these fun family events. Everyone is welcome, and all events are free:

Family Movie Nights

Mark your calendars now! Popular family movies will be shown at the chapel on Friday evenings on June 2, 9, 16 and 30. Arrive at 7:00—be home by 9:00!

Family BINGO Night

Bring the whole family for a night of BINGO fun on June 23, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm! Snacks and prizes are included.

5-Day Kids Club



Windsor Chapel will be hosting a Kids 5-Day Club again in partnership with CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) on July 17 -

21, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm, for children ages 5 - 12. The evening will include Bible stories, games, music, snacks and outdoor play. Register online.

Please begin to pray for the kids who will come, the families who will be impacted by the Gospel message, and for a few Windsor Chapel volunteers to help along the way. If you can help in this wonderful ministry, please sign your name on the Volunteer Sheet in the chapel foyer.

Thank You to the Browns!



Lorraine and Terry Brown prepared the pretty flowers and decorated the sweet small terra cotta flower pots for Mother's Day.

Thanks to the Browns for their dedication and crafty

creativity, and their very much appreciated contributions to so many special occasions at Windsor Chapel.



Financial Update

(Through April 2017)

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want..."

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$91,059	\$103,000
Expense	\$99,604	\$113,092

Windsor Chapel has sent \$16,525 to our missionary partners this year. That's 18% of your giving!

11th Hour Classes Resume This Fall

Sunday School classes have ended for the spring. Join us when they resume in the fall as we discover and apply biblical truths to our daily lives.

Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

The Blessings of Therapy

Many of you know that I have been challenged over the past several weeks by a significant case of vertigo. As my doctor and physical therapist have explained, a virus attacked two nerves in my inner ear, resulting in a loss of hearing and a loss of equilibrium. The hearing loss is thankfully minor, though most likely permanent. The loss of equilibrium is more bothersome, but treatable and completely correctable with vestibular therapy and time.

Vestibular therapy is a wonderful example of the Lord's glorious creation of our bodies. It depends on the brain and nervous system's ability to develop alternate pathways to regain balance and coordination when those abilities have been compromised by damage or disease. In my case, the initial severe vertigo—I was unable to read the clock while lying in bed because it appeared to be spinning around the room—resolved without therapy as my brain recognized that the signals it was getting from my inner ear were not correct. But to fully recover, I have needed the focused exercises prescribed by my therapist to help my brain learn to disregard the incorrect messages from my damaged inner ear and to develop new mechanisms to correctly determine my orientation in space.

As I have embarked on this therapeutic adventure and experienced the awesome recovery work of my brain, it has occurred to me that my experience in working to overcome vertigo is very much like the recovery work needed to overcome the spiritual and emotional damage we sometimes experience

in our sinful world. When we suffer neglect, abuse, and/or trauma, especially as children, the "inner ear" of our heart becomes damaged, and it receives messages that are incorrect: "I deserve this;" "This is my fault;" There is something wrong with me;" and "I am bad" are a few examples of the default emotional responses that some of us have developed as we have listened to the lies created by abuse or trauma. And these responses remain intact into adulthood as our hearts continue to respond to faulty perceptions driven by lies from our past.

Vertigo recovery begins when the brain begins to recognize that the messages it is receiving from the inner ear are faulty. Emotional and spiritual recovery begins when the individual begins to recognize that his or her default emotions, self-talk, and perceptions about self and others cannot be trusted. This is truly as disorienting as vertigo! And just like I have needed help from a vestibular therapist, an individual recovering from abuse or trauma needs others to recover. Sometimes a therapist is important; but with or without a therapist, these individuals need relationship with others who can help them experience God's truth about themselves. Slowly, over time, the lies of shame can be recognized as lies and rejected, and the truth of value before God can be embraced.

I have found vestibular therapy to be amazingly helpful but also agonizingly frustrating. Even as I make significant progress, there are times each day when my brain becomes confused, and I become disoriented and/or unbalanced. It is frustrating to know what the problem is, to be working on treatment, and yet to continue to experience episodes that are less than coordinated. My therapist assures me that this is "normal," but it seems and feels to me that I should be making better—and faster—progress.

Continued on page 5...

"The Blessings of Therapy," continued...

The same is even more true for the individual recovering from past negative experiences. We may feel that once we know the truth, we should be able to apply it consistently and therefore recover quickly. But the distance from head to heart can be a very long one, and it takes perseverance over time to reject lies about who others say we are (either directly or by their treatment of us) and embrace who God says we are. My therapist tells me that the strategies that I am learning now will become automatic. The same is true for recovery. The strategies that we work so hard to learn will eventually become automatic, and we will regain the spiritual and emotional balance and coordination that we've lost. But again, both types of recovery occur most effectively in the context of relationship. Just as I need my vestibular therapist to help me reteach my brain, so those who are recovering need others to help them experience the truth of God's personal love and grace so that their hearts may re-learn—and then live in the light of—truth.

Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557 or clbills@verizon.net) to continue the dialogue....

Perísseia

Our women's growth group concludes its spring series this Thursday, June 1, 7:00-8:30, in the Chapel House. All women are welcome as we discuss biblical principles to apply to relational issues brought up in contemporary media. We will enjoy an evening of fellowship the following Thursday, June 8. For more information, please contact Cindy Bills (clbills@verizon.net; 609-275-8557).



Elder's Corner

By Pastor Andy Straubel

Encouraging

On May 15-17, Janice and I attended a conference at Harvey Cedars on Long Beach Island. Several individuals made presentations, but one in particular, Jon Nielson from Princeton, spoke on Millennials (those born between 1983-1997—they would be the 18-33 year olds).

Essentially, he said Millennials have much to teach us—I would assume those born before 1983. They value the "real" and reject the "fake." They value service and want to make a difference (some call it the "Bono Factor," of the band U2 fame). And, when it comes to matters of faith, they welcome the mysterious and transcendent. This is encouraging, especially as many put down the millennial generation.

Interestingly, the speaker noted that Millennials are "Okay" with tradition and are returning to a faith more akin to our grandparents than parents. They like dressing up, singing hymns, and participating in liturgical worship. When it comes to Bible study they don't want easy answers or "dumbed down doctrine." They want to pursue the mysteries in the Word and are content to live with tension found therein.

The speaker concluded with a message of hope. Millennials are hungry, they crave relational connections—both with God and people. And, the church is the place to get it. I am challenged to get real, to listen intently, and not shy away from the hard things that the Scriptures teach.

Our Attentive God

By Janet Berrill

I work at a company that sells many kinds of insurance, homeowner insurance being one of them. Some people elect to have their home insurance paid through their mortgage company; each month they pay extra with their mortgage payment, and when the insurance payment comes due it is paid by the mortgage company. When a customer has home insurance with another company and switches to ours, sometimes things don't go smoothly with the transition of the mortgage company paying us instead of the previous insurance company.

That's where I come in. One of my responsibilities is to follow up on new policies that will be paid by the mortgage company and make sure the payment is actually made. Recently, I had a situation where the payment was not made. The circumstances are a little complicated, so without going into too many details, I will just say that I wound up spending hours on the phone with the mortgage company, the title company which handled the closing of the home, and the department that the payments are made to. For over a week I spoke to people and tracked the situation to ensure that the payment was going to be made within the grace period so that the insurance policy would not cancel leaving the homeowner without insurance. When the payment was finally made, it occurred to me that the homeowner had no idea what I had just done on their behalf. As far as they knew, everything with their home insurance was fine, they knew nothing of what I had done to ensure their home policy remained active. If I had not gotten involved, their policy would have cancelled for non-payment of the premium.

The reason the policy did not cancel was because I was attentive to the situation. Read

what the Bible says about God's attentiveness to us in Isaiah 49:15: *"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!"* Unfortunately, in our fallen world, there are circumstances where the mother-child bond is not as God intended, but in most cases the answer to the question about whether a mother could forget her baby is an emphatic "NO!" God then says that even if that were possible, He would never forget us!

It makes me wonder, that if God is so attentive to me, what has He done on my behalf that I know nothing about? As I drive, how has He protected me from getting injured? How has He prevented me from getting sick? How has He protected my children as they played? What has He done to keep me safe that I am unaware of? I can only imagine that there are countless situations where God has acted on my behalf without my knowing it, just like I acted on behalf of our customer without their knowledge.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* Long have I given thanks to God for the things He has done for me and for how He has provided for me. I find that no matter how bad the situation is, there is always something I can find to be thankful for. Recently I have added a prayer of thanks to God for all that He has done on my behalf that I am unaware of. My attentiveness in my job allowed our customer to avoid a problem, how much more has our attentive God done for us!

If you have any items or information you would like to share in the newsletter please e-mail:

Susan Seiboth at

susan@quiltingsquare.com

Dorothy Soi at

dsoi@windsorchapel.org

Chapel Office (609) 799-2559

www.windsorchapel.org