

NORTONVILLE NEWS

"Moving For God"

By Pastor Josh

Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 12:1-3)

I have moved several times in my life. When I moved to Grand Haven, I followed the general set of steps we all take when we move from one house to another. I looked at properties, called realtors, toured locations, signed paperwork, gave a deposit, all the regular rigmarole needed to ensure that there was a place ready for me that I could call home. It is only natural that when we are preparing for a major life change, that we do all that we can to prepare for it. We don't like surprises when it comes to something so important!

However, we still cannot know everything that lies in wait for us down the road. We cannot possibly plan for everything that happens in a lifetime! From flat tires to surprise medical bills, there is always something waiting for us that we didn't expect to face. And sometimes, the call of God takes us down a path that we may not have even considered before! The call of God may entail putting ourselves in uncomfortable, or even dangerous situations! That call may put our desire to follow God in conflict with our desire to live a comfortable life. (Continued on page 2)

Stay Connected

Sunday

9:30 am Sunday School

10:45 am Sunday morning

6:00 pm Sunday night

6:00 pm Sunday Youth Group

Wednesday

Prayer Meeting at 6:30 pm

Olympians at 6:30 pm

If you have internet and would like to watch our Sunday morning service, search for Nortonville Gospel Chapel on **Facebook** or **YouTube**. You can also see the video and discover more resources on our website:

www.nortonvillechapel.info
nortonvillechapel.org

No Internet? Simply call
616-846-7309 at 10:45 am
 on Sunday and you can listen to the
 whole morning service.

Abram was one such person whose calling from God would dramatically change his normal life. We read of God's call to Abram in Genesis 12:1, **"Get out of your country, from your family, and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you."** Abram was called to leave his native country; from the only culture he knew. He was called to leave his brothers, sisters, cousins, the support network of his family was to be left behind. The house of his father, that too would be left behind! This call wouldn't just alter Abram's life, he would have to totally cast aside his old life! And what would his new life be? Even the country in which he was to dwell was unknown to him.

Abram would have to leave his relative safety to go out into a dangerous world. He wouldn't have the safety of a permanent dwelling, or friends and family he could count on in dangerous times. Truly, Abram would have no worldly protection. But Abram had another kind of security, one which, contradictory to worldly wisdom, would be infinitely greater than the safety of his old home. This is the true protection of the promises of God!

Abram heard both the call of God, as well as the promises of God. In Genesis 12:2-3 we read, **"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."** God wouldn't just bless Abram, He would bless the people who bless Abram, and curse those who curse Abram. He would bless the whole world through Abram when Christ was born into his family! God didn't just promise Abram's survival, he would bless Abram and his descendants in an incredible way!

Abram would follow God's call in his life, and he would leave the worldly safety of his home to live in the heavenly protection from God. Our call is not the same as Abram's, God has a different plan for each of us. You may not be called to sacrifice everything to follow God. Your call may be to never leave your own backyard! It is not more virtuous to live a life of suffering versus one of comfort. But we are all called to a life of sacrifice! To sacrifice our own will, and our own desires, to follow God's call. Following that call may put you at odds with the wisdom of the world, may mean that you will face opposition and hardships, and may mean that you have to give up some portion of the comforts you enjoy on this world. However, when we sacrifice our earthly pleasures for God, we lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, and we harvest the priceless rewards that last for eternity!

Abram had promises made directly to him by God, we also have promises made to us by God, found in His Word, which is a more sure foundation than worldly wisdom. Deuteronomy 31:6 says **"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will neither leave you nor forsake you."** No matter where we go on this world, we go with the Lord! Everything that happens in our life happens in the presence of God. The Lord will not call you into the world alone, He will come with us! We also read in Romans 8:28 **"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."** Those who love God and following their unique calling in their lives will be used by God for good! God may lead us through difficult valleys, but His plan for our lives will ultimately lead to good, and to the glory of God! Therefore, let us be emboldened to take steps of faith, out of our comfort zone and worldly safety, and into the path God has laid out for us. Let us not trust in worldly safety and worldly wisdom, but in wisdom from God, and in the complete security we have in God!

Spotlight:

Jim and Dee Dufford



When we gather to worship the Lord on Sunday mornings, we usually see Jim and Dee Dufford involved both at the front of the sanctuary and in the back of the sanctuary. Jim serves as our worship leader and Dee often serves at the media center. We thought you would be encouraged by learning more about them.

Jim was born in Des Moines, Iowa, and is the oldest of five children. He is a blend of Dutch-German and Scottish-English heritage. He jokes about his lineage, "I fight with myself all the time!" Jim's dad worked for IBM and transferred to Grand Rapids and settled in Marne. Jim's parents were not Christians, so he didn't have much religious influence as a child.

After high school, he travelled to San Francisco to see if he could make a name for himself in the rock and roll world. The time out west and traveling around was disappointing, so Jim returned to Michigan. He had learned about the Bahai faith and Buddhism, and Jim was convinced that reincarnation was real. What Jim didn't know is that the Lord God had plans for his life.

A family friend named Mrs. Scott had been praying for him to be saved. Jim started attending Bella Vista Bible Church in Rockford. One day the question popped into his head, "What if I am wrong about incarnation?" The Lord drew Jim to Himself, and in February of 1979, Jim trusted in Christ.

Dee was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and is the youngest of two girls. Her mom was from Northern Michigan and eventually convinced her husband to see what Michigan was like. Her dad came north and worked for Goodyear.

Dee was blessed with a strong Christian upbringing. Her dad was an elder in the church and her mom was the church secretary, so Dee was in church whenever the doors were open. Dee put her faith in Christ at a young age and was baptized when she was eight. During her teen years she was active in church and even taught Sunday School. After high school she went to Great Lakes Christian College to see what the Lord had for her.

Dee appreciated her upbringing in church, yet her church was a bit legalistic and wasn't concerned enough with those who were lost. At about age 30, the Lord gave Dee a spiritual breakthrough. She discovered afresh that the Lord had always loved her, even though He knew that she was going to make some poor choices. She also began to lean more on the Lord's grace and mercy and she grew in the Lord and her love for people who were spiritually struggling.

Jim and Dee met at Lighthouse Christian Ministries Church in Grand Haven, where they were both involved in music ministry. Jim had been praying, "God, if You want me to be with somebody, You must bring her to me, because I'm not doing it." One day Dee reached out to Jim and soon they were married.

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The Dufford's love for the Lord directed them to lead worship not only at their church, but also at the Brooks Correctional Facility in Muskegon. About five years ago, they read about Nortonville Chapel in the newspaper, and Jim thought about coming. Then he met Jerry VanEizenga, who invited him to attend, and soon they joined with us as members. Though Jim didn't want to actually lead worship here at the Chapel, (he just wanted to help out), the good Lord has worked through him.

Jim's favorite verse is Matthew 5:16
"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Dee's favorite Scripture is Proverbs 3:5-6: **"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."**

We are thankful the LORD has directed their paths to serve Him with us here at the Chapel!

November Birthdays



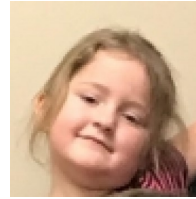
November 3
Emily Ambrose



November 11
Carla Bartow



November 20
Norma VanOordt



November 21
Susan Ambrose



November 22
Clayton Hildebrandt



November 22
Dottie Pellegrom

November Anniversaries



November 26
Phil and Char Peterson



Our church will be assisting with Samaritan's Purse to give shoeboxes of goods to children in need this Christmas! Shoeboxes will be collected November 16th.

Upcoming Events

11/8	Board Meeting 5:30 pm (No Small Groups)	11/16	Shoebox Collection
11/9	Ladies Mission Circle 9:30 am	11/17	Ladies Bible Study 7:00 pm
11/10	Ladies Bible Study 7:00 pm	11/22	Small Groups 6:30 - 8:00 pm
11/11-13	Camp Ao-Wa-Kiya Work Opportunity	11/24	Ladies Bible Study 7:00 pm
11/15	Small Groups 6:30 - 8:00 pm	11/29	Small Groups 6:30 - 8:00 pm
11/14	24/7 Prayer Opportunity		