



LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER...NOT AT RCC!





The Ultimate Question

Dr. Bill Tenny-Brittian

One of my favorite books is the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Universe*. Besides that it's good, clean fun, what I loved about the book is that its metaphors for life. My favorite was that the purpose behind our existence on planet earth is to join in the quest for the answer to life's preeminent question: What is the answer to "life, the universe, and everything"?

Years later, as a church pastor, I came to understand that for the church there is a more foundational question than just the meaning of life, a question we're each faced with that has eternal consequences. I dubbed that inquiry *The Ultimate Question*:

What is it about your relationship with Jesus Christ that the world needs to know?

I began asking that question of my parishioners and my colleagues to learn what answers they'd come up with. What I found was that only a few people had a ready answer to the question as asked. Instead, most of those I asked responded to a very different question. Most people told me about how wonderful their church was, how the church had always been there for them, and how much they loved their church. Most people told me about their relationship with the church.

Now, it's important to know why you love your church, and it's important to be able to put those reasons into words because someone might ask you about your church. But we live in a culture where the word *church* comes with some serious baggage and the vast majority of Americans have made it plain that they are *not* interested in church, and they're especially not interested in going to church! (Last weekend,

less than 85 percent of US Americans attended a worship service of any sort.)

But that doesn't mean that people aren't interested in faith and spirituality. In fact, research and surveys both show that the people across this nation are *very* interested in spiritual things. It's church and Christianity that they're especially not interested in.

Which brings us back to the Ultimate Question. Although most of our neighbors have little interest in your relationship to your church, many would be very interested to have a conversation about your relationship with the Divine. One of the unique teachings in Christianity is that we worship a God who actually seeks to be in a relationship with us ... a God who cares, who listens, and who wants to be actively involved in our day-to-day lives.

And that is why your answer to the Ultimate Question is so important – the fact is, you have neighbors who would truly be interested in your answer.

As I asked members and colleagues what their responses were, I discovered that most of us are unprepared to articulate an answer to the question. In part, I'm sure it's because we haven't asked ourselves that question, so we haven't thought through the answer. But the fact is, the church hasn't been terribly proactive in equipping us to answer the question either.

As I listened to those who *did* have a ready answer to the question, I noticed there were five broad themes most of the answers reflected. I put these together and created what I called *The Five Faces of Jesus*. These were five different characteristics of Jesus that people could really relate to, and while many of us can relate to more than one of these characteristics, I've found that if we choose the predominant characteristic for our response to the Ultimate Question, our stories have focus and strength.

Below are brief descriptions of The Five Faces of Jesus. (If you are interested in a more extensive description, you might want to check out the Church-Talk episode Kris and I did on the subject some years ago: <http://churchtalk.tv/the-five-faces-of-jesus/>).

Jesus as Companion

Those who relate to this characteristic of Jesus often share they're aware that Jesus is always with them as a constant companion and friend. The woman who cared for our children while Kris and I were in seminary would say that this is the Jesus her neighbors needed to hear about. A widow for many, many years, Nanny lived her day-to-day life in constant conversation with Jesus. Although she had a rich prayer life, most of her conversation with Jesus was just that ... an ongoing conversation. She was never lonely because she was never alone. Not only did she "know" Jesus was always there, Jesus simply *was* always there and she spoke with him throughout the day. Perhaps this is similar to your story – a story that others need to hear in order to have hope.

Jesus as Rescuer

Those who relate to this side of Jesus often share that their lives were crashing, burning, and out of control. They were prisoners of their sins, their bad choices, or their addictions. Bound with chains, they had lost all hope. A friend of ours in Seattle, Sherry (not her real name), would say that this is the Jesus everyone needs to hear about. Sherry was addicted to cocaine and had tried to kick the habit for years. When she came to us, she admitted she'd tried everything to get free, but to no avail ... and so she decided to give God a try. Less than three months later, she was clean, sober, and free from her addiction and she attributed it all to Jesus. (And she told pretty much everyone about how Jesus had rescued her!)

Jesus as Healer

Those who relate to Jesus as healer have experienced a special touch from above. Sometimes they've experienced a physical healing, sometimes an emotional healing, or perhaps a spiritual healing. Whatever the healing was, they can point to some event or some answered prayer that brought them wholeness. Tim was a work colleague of mine who had some sort of skin disease that would not clear up. Medications failed, allergy tests were inconclusive, and the best that could be done was to apply a powerful moisturizer. He attended a special evening church service many years ago and the preacher invited those who needed prayer to come forward. Tim felt a need to "go to the altar" and when he did, the prayer team prayed for him. The next morning, his skin problems had vanished and have never returned. When asked about his relationship with Jesus, Tim will tell you about how Jesus healed him. (And he carries a pocket watch with him as a talisman so that when people ask him about the watch, he can tell his story).

Jesus as Guide

Those who relate to Jesus as guide often tell of aimless, purposeless, meaningless lives that were going nowhere ... until Jesus. This is my story. I was raised in the church and there's never been a time in my life when Jesus wasn't "in my heart." However, as a young adult, I bounced from job to job so often that my resumé was embarrassingly long. It wasn't that I kept getting fired – I was very good at pretty much everything I did. The problem was that I got bored with every job within just a few months. My life was unfulfilled and empty. I felt like I had no purpose. Then came a time of prayer when I felt, rather than heard, Jesus suggesting, "If you want to be fulfilled, then follow me. I've got a job for you." Ever since then, I've done my best to listen to where Jesus is leading ... he's become my guide that pointed me "preacher school," seminary, and

into professional ministry. And ever since that time, life has not only made sense, but I've had an incredible time. Yes, I really do love my job now – and I “blame” Jesus for that.

Jesus as Promise Keeper

Finally, those who relate to Jesus as promise keeper tend to be the most contented people on the planet. These are often in circumstances that seem hopeless to rest of the world. Rufus from Ethiopia was one of these. Rufus was a fellow student in Seattle. He was honing his skills in ministry because he wanted to start churches in his home country. The problem, at least as far as the rest of the student body was concerned, was that it was illegal to engage in evangelism in Ethiopia and those who started churches were typically hunted down and killed (martyred). We tried to convince Rufus to remain in the US, to claim refugee status – and we were all willing to sponsor his request. But Rufus was adamant, “Whether I live or whether I die, I know Jesus will keep his promises for the church. My work will not be in vain.”

Others who relate to Jesus as promise keeper may have mortal diseases, illnesses, or injuries. I've known those who are in abject poverty who were certain they'd never escape their situation. In both cases, those who relate to Jesus as promise keeper live with a certainty that “everything is going to be alright ... if not now, then someday. Jesus *always* keeps his promises.”

So ... who is the Jesus you most relate to? Of course, these aren't the only characteristics of Jesus, but they are the ones I've heard about most often from others. If you can articulate your relationship with Jesus, then you have to means to respond in meaningful ways when someone asks you for the reason for your hope (1 Peter 3:15) ... or if they ask you, “Why do you go to church?”



Moderator's Minute

Jeff Steele, Moderator

Hello everyone! I wanted to update you on some things happening in the life of the church. First, you've all probably seen work underway to make audio/video enhancements in the Fellowship Hall, Lobby/Narthex area, and in the Sanctuary. Enhancements in all areas should be complete by the time you read this article. We've held Praise Service in the Fellowship Hall for 4 weeks now and will soon be video streaming both the Classic Service and Praise Service to the RCC web page so that people looking for a church home (or who have limitations preventing their attendance) will be able to watch our services on-line.

We're also pursuing another infrastructure improvement project involving the roof on the Education Wing/Children's wing. On any given rainy day, you'll see buckets and trash cans scattered throughout the hall, nursery, and classrooms in the Children's wing. Of course, this isn't a good environment for our kids and certainly isn't welcoming or inviting for new families bringing their children to RCC. We have sought competitive bids for replacement of the roof and have received endorsement from the Endowments Trustees to fund this project through the Building and Property fund. This funding offer was approved by the General Board and will be brought forward to the congregation for an approval vote at the upcoming congregational meeting scheduled for June 10th. Additional details can be found in the Congregational Meeting article of this Pilot.

Finally, we've identified a cost savings opportunity involving the replacement of the current fluorescent lighting in the Fellowship

Hall. Through an arrangement with yellowblue LED and an energy rebate being offered by KCPL, RCC will replace the existing lighting with new LED lighting. After rebate, the cost to RCC will only be \$3,300, which the Endowment Trustees have agreed to fund via distribution from the Property Operating and Maintenance Fund. In addition to the LED lights requiring less energy to provide a superior quality light and better lighting control, they operate cooler which will result in less cooling expense. The estimated payback period for this investment in more efficient and cost-effective lighting is 4 years, with a continuing \$900 annual savings to the church's energy budget. Further, all bulbs and fixtures are 100% replacement covered for 5 years. This action does not require congregational approval.

In closing, I ask you to continue to pray for the leadership of this church and for those in our community whom God desires for us to reach.

It's good to be in ministry together!

Upcoming Congregational Meeting – June 10th following both services

A Congregational Meeting will be held on June 10th, 2018 at the end of both services. Agenda items for the meeting will include:

- Approval of the distribution of funds from Endowments for the Education Wing Roof Replacement project.

The Raytown Christian Church Endowment Trustees recommend the expenditure of \$65,170 to cover repair and replacement costs for the roof and guttering of the educational building. The funds will be withdrawn from the permanent Building and Property endowment fund, which had a balance of \$318,116.07 as of 12/31/2017 at Christian Church Foundation. Since the Building and Property Fund is considered

restricted, requests for distributions must be introduced to the General Board (two-thirds majority [2/3]) by the Trustees, thus this motion. The General Board approved the motion, which now requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the congregation.

The roof replacement will involve removal of existing modified bitumen roofing and replacement with new state of the art roofing material, consisting of 60 mil Thermoplastic Polyolefin (TPO) fully adhered roofing, covering mechanically attached, tapered polyisocyanurate insulation over the entire roof to achieve drainage sloping. This insulation will provide an R value of approximately 19. Also, 8" box gutters will be installed on the north and south sides of this roofing to carry away the roof surface drainage. The intent of this guttering will be to provide downspouts at the NW and SW corners of this roof and draining into the west parking lot. The new roof will have a materials warranty of 20 years by the manufacturer.

- Approval of candidates to fill two at-large board member positions - Jon Chambers, Jon LeChien
- Approval of candidate to fill one Trustees position – Ron Jensen



Summer Lunch Pre-Packing Party
Wednesday, June 27th – 9am - noon



Outreach

Carol Frevert, Director

FOOD PANTRY TOTALS FOR APRIL, 2018

Families:	81
Adults:	104
Children:	50
Seniors:	57
Total people served:	211

Completed Outreach Events

Special Summer Lunch Ministry Offering

Thank you to everyone who made donations to our Summer Lunch Ministry as we prepare to feed 400-500 children a day this summer for five weeks in July and August. On Mother's Day, we were given an opportunity to donate in honor and/or memory of the special people in our lives who fed us physically and spiritually. What a blessing we are to the children of Raytown.

Micah Ministry Service Night

We took a group of 5 RCC volunteers to help serve the evening hot meal and distribute clothing from the clothing pantry. We also took all of the Micah Ministry donations for their clothing pantry. Thanks to Eric Dawe, Carol Mozley, Exine Harness, Carol Frevert, and Steve Smith for their volunteer time.

Upcoming Outreach Events

Special Offering for Enhancing Education, Sunday, June 10

This program is gearing up to provide tutoring and enrichment this summer for 3 weeks in July. Children who will be attending first grade or second grade district wide have been accepted into the program. As with any tutoring program, plans continue to finalize the teaching staff, make lesson plans, provide daily snacks, and arrange weekly visits to the library.

During the month of June, our church will have the opportunity to financially support this tutoring program. There will also be an opportunity to volunteer if you are interested. Julie Neumann will provide the Minute for Mission in both worship services sharing information about this important program.

Please sign up at the information desk in the lobby if you are interested in serving.

Summer Lunch Ministry, July 9 - August 10

In July, God's Hunger Warriors will begin gathering every **weekday** for five weeks at RCC to pack and deliver lunches to over 400-500 Raytown children who might otherwise not eat at all. Our congregation has been richly blessed by this ministry and we hope you will join our interfaith and intergenerational group this summer. How can YOU be a blessing?

June Calendar for RSLM

Month of June: Baggie Bonanza--donation drive for ziploc-type sandwich and snack baggies and napkins for lunches ***Look for the coolers in the lobby and help fill them with your donations.***

June 17 and 24: Volunteer sign-ups at information table: we need pre-packers, sandwich makers, lunch packers, help to drive or ride along to deliver lunches to area apartment complexes, lunch bag stampers. There is a job for everyone!!

June 25: Kitchen cleaning and Fellowship Hall and Chapel set up for RSLM

June 26: Delivery of non-perishable lunch items from Hy-Vee

June 27: Pre-Packing Party from 9 am - 12 noon. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Help us get ready for the first week of lunches

June 28: 3-6 pm Distribution of 100 bags of food consisting of one week's lunch supplies to be used during the first week of July because RSLM starts the second week of July. Families notified through the school distribution of RSLM flyers. Limit of one bag per family--first come, first served

Food Pantry

During June, clients will be served Wednesday, June 6 and Wednesday, June 13. Then the Food Pantry will close for summer break after June 13 and will reopen on Wednesday, August 22.

We will be having a 'thank you' luncheon for the Food Pantry volunteers on Thursday, June 7. It will also be a special thank you for John Gjesfjeld who is "retiring" from Food Pantry service. What a wonderful blessing these volunteers are who every week help serve the Raytown community and their food needs.



RCC Kids

Ben King, Director

June is one of my favorite months of the year. My wife and I will celebrate our 8th wedding anniversary, Marie turns a year older and we typically get to spend time with family. As I shared on the 27th family is very important to me and summer is a good time to get together. Our kids will be busy over this summer as well, they get to attend a sibling building camp and will be spending a week at respite. If you talked to Chuck and got his card, please follow up and see how God can use you in reaching out to Foster kids in Missouri. If you have other questions, please contact me and I will be glad to put you in touch with people or answer your questions.

RCC Kids on Sunday Mornings will be starring What's in the Bible with Buck Denver from Right Now Media, to see what topics they will be discussing follow us on Facebook. RCC Kids Wednesday Evenings will be taking a break till July 11th and then will come back for a five-week study prior to our Fall activities.

Thank You! To everyone who donated and served at the Family Carnival. The turn out and activities were great. We are looking forward to what God is going to do! Our next event will be our Fall Kick Off in August.



RCC Youth

Kim Lawhead, Director

As we are wrapping up the school year, activities are winding down. However, the youth will be having Wednesday evening Bible study through the month of June. A light snack supper will be provided to those in attendance.

I am very excited for the coming school year. We will be starting a new focus with quarterly "lock-in" which will contain worship, fellowship and service. In addition, while we will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings, one Wednesday a month the youth will separate into Middle school and High school groups for more in-depth discussion about the things that concern them or to give them a chance for a round-table time of questions and research into the Bible.

If you are interested in helping out with youth next year, please let me know by sending me an email at youth@raytowncc.org. I would love to have you join me in the 412 xperience! (Hint: 1 Timothy).

Thank you

The Inspirations would like to thank you for your support at the recent bake sale. Over \$200 was raised to go toward the July mission trip to the Red Lake Reservation. These funds will help with the gas to get us there and back home!

Car Wash

Come and get your car washed on June 16th from 9am – 3pm. Cars will receive a basic wash and dry for a donation toward their trip. This will be the final fund raiser for the mission trip. All funds raised during this car wash will go toward their meals while on the road to and from Red Lake, Minnesota. We thank you for your encouragement, prayers and financial support of this trip where the youth will be able to deepen their relationship with Jesus and each other as well as make new Christian friends with kids from all around the United States.



6108 Blue Ridge Blvd.
Raytown, MO 64133

June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career Orientation	2 1:00pm – 6:00pm Eagle Scout Court of Honor
3 9:00am Classic Worship Sermon Study 10:30am Praise Worship Adult Sunday School RCC Kids 1:00pm, Mission Trip – Youth/Parent Meeting	4 6:00pm AA 6:30pm Vision Implantation & Oversite Committee 7:00pm Alanon Scouts	5 9:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career	6 9:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career 11:00am Four Seasons to Theater 1:00pm Food Pantry 6:00pm RCC Youth Prayer Summit & Study	7 9:00am Men's Breakfast 8:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career 2:30pm – 5:00pm KCSOURCElink 7:00pm Elders Meeting	8 9:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career	9
10 Congregational Mtg. 9:00am Classic Worship Sermon Study 10:30am Praise Worship Adult Sunday School RCC Kids	11 6:00pm AA 7:00pm Alanon Scouts	12 9:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career 5:00pm Staff Meeting	13 9:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career 1:00pm Food Pantry 6:00pm RCC Youth Prayer Summit & Study	14 9:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career 10:00am Four Seasons	15 9:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career	16
17 Father's Day 9:00am Classic Worship Sermon Study 10:30am Praise Worship Adult Sunday School RCC Kids	18 6:00pm AA 6:30pm Searchers Potluck 7:00pm Alanon Scouts	19 9:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career	20 9:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career 6:00pm RCC Youth Prayer Summit & Study	21 9:00am Men's Breakfast 8:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career	22 9:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career	23
24 9:00am Classic Worship Sermon Study 10:30am Praise Worship Adult Sunday School RCC Kids	25 6:00pm AA 7:00pm Alanon Scouts	26 9:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career	27 9:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career 6:00pm RCC Youth Prayer Summit & Study	28 9:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career 7:00pm General Board	29 9:00am – 11:00am Cash & Career	30