

by David Nelson
Pastor of Discipleship

What is 'Good News' for you?

What do you consider to be 'good news'? Things like: "I have... a new job," "...a pay raise," "...a new car," "it's my birthday," "my team won," "we're having fried chicken for dinner," "I got an 'A' on my test," "It's a boy (or girl)," and, "we're going to Disney Land," probably come to mind for most of us. But, there is a whole other level of *good news* when rescue, relief, or healing come to those in dire straits.

Imagine you're one of 53 captives taken and held hostage for four years deep in the interior of Ethiopia in a remote 9,000-foot-high bastion by Emperor Theodore III in the mid 1860's. These 53 hostages were British citizens and Queen Victoria pleaded with Emperor Theodore by letter to release the captives; but, her pleas were in vain.

Finally, the British government ordered a full-scale military expedition from India to march into Ethiopia - not to conquer and make her a British colony, but simply to rescue the 53 civilian hostages. The invasion force included 32,000 men, heavy artillery, and 44 elephants to carry the guns. Provisions included 50,000 tons of beef and pork and 30,000 gallons of rum. Engineers built landing piers, water treatment plants, a railroad & telegraph line all the way to the interior, as well as numerous bridges.



Ethiopian Mountains

The plan was to fight one decisive battle to secure the prisoner's release and then depart and take them home. Imagine the joy of these 53 people - after four years captivity - when they saw thousands of British soldiers treading this high mountainous terrain to fight for and secure their rescue!!

The expedition went as planned. The British expended thousands of man hours, incredible resources, and millions of pounds to rescue a handful of captives. Though this is among the most magnificent 19th century military expeditions waged, it isn't usually mentioned in history books because no new lands were conquered. However, because of the monumental logistics, military historians compare the 1868 British landing in Ethiopia to the Allies' invasion of France in 1944.

Being rescued from a long captivity deep in remote recesses of a foreign land at lavish expense IS *good news*!

Surprisingly, this amazing rescue reminds me of a Bible verse... *What did you expect? I'm a pastor!!*

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" **Isaiah 52:7**

The salvation experienced by these 53 British captives was wonderful... I can only imagine their joyous homecoming as being filled with the deepest emotions of release and relief men & women can experience!

As beautiful as the feet of these British soldiers on the mountains of Ethiopia were to these 53, they merely hold a flickering candle in beauty to the feet of those who carry the *good news* which brings a greater rescue from a longer captivity deeper into remote regions of a foreign land at a much greater expense than that levied by Queen Victoria and her minions.

What is the *good news* of which I talk? Maybe you've heard about it this season? It's *the gospel*, which means *good news*. What is *the gospel*? Men & women are in captivity to rebellious disobedience against God (sin), which causes us to live in the remote foreign regions of death (separation from God), from which we need rescue (salvation), which only comes by trusting in the lavishly expensive work of Jesus Christ (God's Only Begotten Son) Who died to take captives home to God in heaven to live with Him forever!

In a verse: *God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* **Romans 5:8**

Let me leave you with this, *What is Good News for you?*

Upcoming Events

Youth Group

Middle & High School

Sunday Night

Bible Study

6:00 - 7:30pm

Wednesday Night

Open Gym, Eat Out, etc.

6:30 - 8:00pm

Children's Ministry

Infant - 5th grade

Sunday Nights

Nursery

Infant - 2 yrs.

6:00 - 7:30pm

M&M Kids

3 yrs. - Kindergarten

6:00 - 7:30pm

Imagebearers

1st - 5th grade

6:00 - 7:30pm

Adults

16 yrs - 99 years

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball

Thursdays 7:00 - 9:00pm

Men's Basketball Open Gym

Saturdays 2:00 - 4:00pm

Kids ask tough questions...

At the volleyball skills clinic, players were given an "Open Mike" opportunity to ask our pastors a question. Here's one answered by Pastor Dave.



Q. What do you think about the world ending in 2012?

I don't know if the world will end in 2012; neither does anyone else. Jesus says, *'Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.'*³² *"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."*³³ *Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come."* (Mark 13:31-33)

Could it end in 2012? Yes... but it could just as easily end in 2315. Jesus didn't know and neither do we. Why did the Mayan calendar end in 2012? I don't know, I haven't researched it much. Maybe they ran out of room on the stone they were cutting or maybe the chisel became dull, broke, or someone stole it.

Volleyball News

Thank you ALL for your support of our Christian sports ministry! We have said from Day One that we put Jesus Christ first in this league, and we pray that our actions, words, and thoughts are always toward that goal. And we thank YOU for doing the same as you encourage all of your young folks and display great examples of sportsmanship.

When we put God first like this, we ALL win!

The Volleyball Committee



Ice Cream Social This Friday Night

You and your family are invited to share ice cream with us!

Friday, February 26th

Division I	(after 6:30 game)
Division II	(after 7:30 game)
Division III	(after 8:30 game)

1 John 4:19

We love
because
He first
loved us.


**First
Presbyterian
Church**
Stanley, North Carolina

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Morning Service

8:30 Worship Service
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service

Sunday Evening

6:00 Care Groups
Image Bearers
6:00 Youth Group

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

www.fpcstanley.org

Team Rosters

Game Schedule

Upcoming Events Youth Group

- ✓ Ski Trip to Winter Place
- ✓ Crisis Pregnancy Service Project
- ✓ Middle School Movie Night
- ✓ Palmer Home Mission Trip
- ✓ Middle School Retreat
- ✓ High School Retreat



Register now for
Kindergarten
704.931.4496

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Classroom instruction will combine the best of traditional and contemporary teaching methods and will be classical in content.

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