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Our Mission:  
To relate to  
God more  
intimately,  
to evidence the  
fruit of the  
Spirit, and to  
bring Jesus  
into all our  
relationships.

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# HRCC News

## From the Pastor's Pen....

My life's verse is found in **Psalm 42:1**, "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God." The word "pants," literally means, to "pant with thirst." Just as a thirsty and parched deer thirsts after a stream with water, so David says that his soul pants with thirst for God.



A.W. Tozer writes in his book, **The Pursuit of God**, "We pursue God because, and only because, He has first put an urge within us that spurs us to the pursuit. 'No man can come to me,' said our Lord, 'except the Father which hath sent Me draw him,' and it is by this prevenient drawing that God takes from us every vestige of credit for the act of coming. The impulse to pursue God originates with God, but the outworking of that impulse is our following hard after Him...To have found God and still to pursue Him is the soul's paradox of love, scorned indeed by the too-easily-satisfied religionist, but justified in happy experience by the children of the burning heart." (**A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God, pg. 11-12, 15**)

I read this quote 48-49 years ago. I underlined it. I still pull it out from time to time to remind me that for me life has been about pursuing God because He first pursued me and put the impulse within me to pursue Him.

For over 40 years as a pastor I have deliberately wanted to encourage people to long after God – to pant for God - like a deer thirsty for the streams of water. This means we become devoted and give much effort to find the living God, and partake in His life. Jesus said the same thing but in a different way. In **Matthew 22:37** it says, "Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind."

To love God with all our heart, soul and mind is the attitude of full consecration expressed by the hymn, *Take My life and Let it be*. Verse 1 says, "Take my life and let it be, consecrated, Lord, to Thee; Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise, Let them flow in ceaseless praise." And then the hymn in the next 5 verses speaks of, "taking my hands... my voice...my silver and gold... my will... and my love" and giving all of it to God.

If we have a genuine soul thirsting after God, if the one determination of our lives is to find Him and be in harmony with Him, we will make that our greatest pursuit of our lives. Our hands will move at the impulse of His love; our voice will speak and sing of God. Our gold and silver, our material possessions, will be used for Him. Our feet will be swift on errands for Him. We will want our moments and our days to be devoted to His praise. We will want every power of our intellect to be used in harmony with His will. Our desire shall be that His will should take the place of our own, and that God be enthroned in our hearts. As our souls pant after God, we will pour out our love to Him, renouncing self-interest, and wishing to be ever and always fully devoted to Him who is the

*Continued...*

fountain source of all that we hold dear.

Bible teacher Jen Wilken said, "If we want to *feel* deeply about God, we must learn to *think* deeply about God." (Jen Wilkin, **Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both Our Hearts and Our Minds**, [https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/7328168.Jen\\_Wilkin](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/7328168.Jen_Wilkin)) Having a heart that pursues God is not mainly about how you feel about God, or having experiences of God, it comes from knowing and learning who God is. When we learn and know who God is, it can then inform not only our minds but our hearts and passions as well.

One more quote from Tozer: "The man who has God for his treasure has all things in one. Many ordinary treasures may be denied him, or if he is allowed to have them, the enjoyment of them will be so tempered that they will never be necessary to his happiness." (A.W. Tozer, **The Pursuit of God**, pg. 20)

Please know that I love you and desire that we all become more like Jesus.

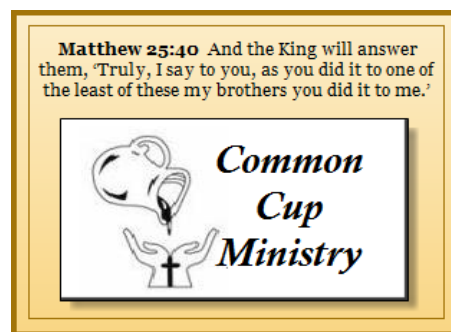
Pastor Howard



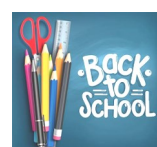
## Village Creek Bible Camp

Please be in prayer for our campers going to Junior Camp 3 August 6-12: Ava-Rose Paech, Isabella Richter, Macla Remington, Weston Frey.

Below are pictures from the July camp.



Remember to pick up some School Supplies for the Common Cup Back to School Supply Drive, which helps McLeod County students in need. See the display in the church foyer.



We have been assigned:

Red color College rule  
Purple Wide rule

Also, each church has been asked to contribute 20 backpacks.

Check the back to school sales for these items. Walmart has had the notebooks on sale for \$.35 each.

Please have your donations to church by Sunday, August 6. Thanks for being a blessing to McLeod County students in need.

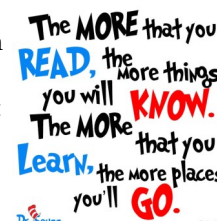
Also please continue to bring in those pudding cups so that Common Cup can build up their supply for the coming school year. They are also used to help feed children during the summer months. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



Ladies! You are invited to a wedding shower for Julia Richardson on Sunday, August 27, 2023 at 2:00 PM here at Hunters Ridge Community Church. Julia and Joshua are registered at Target and on Amazon.



The hot days of summer are a great time to sit inside in the air conditioning with a good book. And we have many of them in our church library! We have books for children and adults, non-fiction, and fiction books in a variety of genre. Why not find something in the library to enjoy this month?



## Psalm 51-100

Y	C	R	E	M	T	Y	G	O	D	L	E	I	H	S
T	G	N	I	S	R	S	A	J	E	H	O	V	A	H
I	D	R	W	O	M	B	E	R	U	P	A	L	B	E
U	E	E	L	H	T	U	R	T	P	D	V	S	I	P
Q	T	G	C	S	O	U	L	R	S	A	G	S	T	H
I	P	S	S	E	L	R	E	H	T	A	F	E	A	E
N	M	P	R	A	I	S	E	I	Z	E	O	L	T	R
I	E	R	R	E	S	T	O	R	E	S	O	B	I	D
E	T	A	Z	I	O	N	F	C	A	S	T	C	O	E
G	L	H	O	T	O	N	G	U	E	E	S	O	N	L
U	U	N	F	I	L	T	H	Y	L	R	T	N	E	I
F	M	W	A	L	K	C	O	R	O	T	O	S	V	V
E	U	N	I	C	O	R	N	C	O	R	O	U	A	E
R	T	R	U	S	T	R	A	E	F	O	L	M	E	R
V	A	I	N	I	A	T	N	U	O	F	E	E	H	T

BLESS	FOOL	INIQUITY	ROCK	THEE
BOASTEST	FOOTSTOOL	JEHOVAH	SALVATION	TONGUE
CAST	FORTRESS	JUDGE	SEA	TRUST
CONSUME	FOUNTAIN	MERCY	SEIZE	TRUTH
CRY	GLORY	MIRE	SHEPHERD	TUMULT
DECEITFUL	GOD	OPPRESSION	SHIELD	UNICORN
DELIVER	HABITATION	PRAISE	SING	VAIN
FATHERLESS	HARP	PRAY	SON	WALK
FEAR	HASTE	REFUGE	SOUL	WOMB
FILTHY	HEAVEN	RESTORE	TEMPTED	ZION

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<http://www.thepotters.com/puzzles.html>

## Read Through the Bible

In 2023 we will be reading through the Bible using a portion from the Old and a portion from the New Testament each day.

- |                                |                               |                                 |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Psalm 57-59; Romans 4       | 9. Psalm 77-78; Romans 10     | 17. Psalm 97-99; Rom 16         | 25. Psalm 119:1-88; 1 Cor 7:20-40 |
| 2. Psalm 60-62; Romans 5       | 10. Psalm 79-80; Rom 11:1-18  | 18. Psalm 100-102; 1 Cor 1      | 26. Psalm 119:89-176; 1 Cor 8     |
| 3. Psalm 62-65; Romans 6       | 11. Psalm 81-83; Rom 1:19-36  | 19. Psalm 103-104; 1 Cor 2      | 27. Psalm 120-122; 1 Cor 9        |
| 4. Psalm 66-67; Romans 7       | 12. Psalm 84-86; Rom 12       | 20. Psalm 105-106; 1 Cor 3      | 28. Psalm 123-125; 1 Cor 10:1-18  |
| 5. Psalm 68-69; Romans 8:1-21  | 13. Psalm 87-88; Rom 13       | 21. Psalm 107-109; 1 Cor 4      | 29. Psalm 126-128; 1 Cor 10:19-33 |
| 6. Psalm 70-71; Romans 8:22-39 | 14. Psalm 89-90; Rom 14       | 22. Psalm 110-112; 1 Cor 5      | 30. Psalm 129-131; 1 Cor 11:1-16  |
| 7. Psalm 72-73; Romans 9:1-15  | 15. Psalm 91-93; Rom 15:1-13  | 23. Psalm 113-115; 1 Cor 6      | 31. Psalm 132-134; 1 Cor 11:17-34 |
| 8. Psalm 74-76; Romans 9:16-33 | 16. Psalm 94-96; Rom 15:14-33 | 24. Psalm 116-118; 1 Cor 7:1-19 |                                   |