



June 2023

Fox River Life



The Following article is from Greg Morse a staff writer for desiringGod.org and graduate of Bethlehem College & Seminary. He and his wife, Abigail, live in St.

Paul with their son and two daughters.

Roast What You Kill—Becoming a Man Who Follows Through

The sluggard's Instagram is unforgettable. If you have followed him in the Scriptures, you readily picture this creature sticking his hand in the bowl of Cheetos, unwilling to lift it back up to his mouth (Proverbs 19:24). We picture the man marooned on his bed, energetically telling about all the lions that prowl the streets (Proverbs 26:13–14).

But if you know the man in real life, his comic profile is not that funny anymore. As smoke in the eyes, he comes to irritate us because we have found repeatedly that we cannot depend upon him (Proverbs 10:26). You might roll your eyes at him at first, but soon you give an exasperated, Really? "How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep?" (Proverbs 6:9). He refuses to plow in autumn (Proverbs 20:4). His hands refuse to labor (Proverbs 21:25). Yet calling up to us from his mother's basement, he insists that he is wise and life is right where he wants it (Proverbs 26:16). He is a blend of satire and shame, a tragi-comic figure, as Derek Kidner names him (Proverbs, 39).

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So to me, the sluggard was always someone else. I had never considered Scripture's testimony of the more sophisticated lazy man — one with his shirt tucked in, going about his work, busily adding events to his calendar. I dismissed the cartoon, never taking time to examine myself against one species of sloth given to us in Proverbs: the man who busies himself with starting many things, but doesn't bring them to completion.

Hunting Sloth

The wise king of Proverbs shows us this active sluggard. He, unlike the traditional sloth, is up early in the morning. He has his eggs and drinks his coffee. Instead of being discovered in the sloth's usual habitat — buried beneath sheets and pillows — he is up and about, stalking through the forest, pursuing his prey. He is a hunter.

See him tracking his animal — thoughtful, calculated, alert. He sets his traps and camouflages himself for the kill. He knows his target; he knows his weapon; he lies in wait. While his brother sloth is sleeping in the trees, he is armed in the bushes. While the other excuses inaction by complaining of lions in the streets, he is crouched where lions roar. When he sees his quarry, he times his assault perfectly and springs violently. The king sees this man return in the morning with a carcass draped over his shoulder.

So far, he is full of manful action. But notice where the laziness of this hunting sluggard manifests:

The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting. (Proverbs 12:27 NKJV)

What a strange picture. The man woke up early. He prepared his tools. He lay in wait. He acted deliberately, forcefully. He took the prize, brought home the meat — but never cooked it. Perhaps he decided he had worked hard enough for one day. Perhaps he realized just how tired he felt. His enthusiasm died before the meal was prepared.

He labored promisingly, for a time. He remained focused, for a while. His was hard but unfinished work. In the end, his plate is just as empty as that of the other sluggard, waking at his return.

Incomplete

Men, how many tasks have you started strong and finished weak (or not at all)? How many deer have we killed but never tasted? How much nourishment has laziness robbed from our souls, our families, our churches, our world?

I think this spirit of so-far-and-no-farther plagues our generation. We recreate at life; we rarely commit. Manhood seems less tethered to follow-through, to roasting the meat we hunt. Consider just a few examples.

Relationships: date, but never marry.

Some men enjoy the chase of dating without taking any real steps toward marriage. They love the excitement, the hunt, the thrill, the flirt, the challenge — but lazily want nothing to do with lifelong commitment. Covenant panics them. They live unwilling to vow,

I take you to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, honor, comfort, and cherish you, and forsaking all others to keep myself only unto you as long as we both shall live.

So they date for fun; they go hunting but never roast. Their catch-and-release policy might be less offensive if it didn't leave behind a trail of pierced and discarded hearts. They put in effort to get to know daughters of the King, but never know the feast that marital love provides nor the lasting fruit it bears.

Church: attend, but never join.

How many men can leave their local church without anyone noticing? They never joined, never served, never devoted themselves to God's people. Their schooling or career earned their talents and commitment. Their intra-mural basketball team or local gym received their dedication and time. While they placed their bodies in the church on Sundays, their hearts remained in the world.

Such are the many who know little of belonging to a local church. They come, but bolt at the soonest opportunity.



SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST & PRAISE - Amari Duke (One Year Old)

Amari Duke came to the shelter this past month, along with his two siblings. In the first week of arrival, he underwent major surgery (bilateral parietal craniotomy and evacuation of bilateral chronic subdural hematoma) to remove the hematoma that developed due to a brain injury. The procedure went well, and Amari Duke is back at the shelter recovering in the infirmary. As always, the medical team and Home Life employees stepped up to give him the best care possible. We even had a few employees who donated blood for Amari Duke.

They disappear for weeks at a time to their cabin or vacation and never get around to joining because of the weight of expectations. These play at Christianity, hunting theological game but never roasting it.

Work: labor, but for appearances.

How many men really commit themselves to excellence, to comprehensiveness in their work? How many drape the kill of their life's work over their shoulder and take pleasure in the careful roasting of the meat?

To the Christian man who found himself a slave in the early Colossian church, Paul instructs, "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:23–24).

Work heartily — literally, "from your soul" — even in this, the most unpleasant of work situations. How many of us are eye-pleasers in our work — working hard when others watch us, but switching tabs and scrolling Twitter as soon as they walk away? How often have you and I stopped short of cooking the meal God would have for us?

Great Hunter

Where would we be if Jesus were the hunter many of us have been? If he came and lived a couple of decades among us and called it quits? If he fell upon his knees in Gethsemane and went no farther, or felt the first nail through the wrist and summoned his army of angels? What if he came to save as an eye-pleaser, a hired hand who turned tail and ran when Satan, our sins, and God's righteous wrath bore down on him?

If he stopped short, if he left even one step of the journey for us alone to achieve, we would be lost. If even one ounce of atoning blood needed to come from our veins, we would have no hope. If even one perfect work was yet required to fulfill the law on our behalf, all would remain undone. If Jesus somehow proved only a partway Prophet, a mostly Messiah, a nearly sufficient Savior for us — we all would submerge beneath the burning waves forever.

But oh for a thousand tongues to praise the completeness of our Mediator's work. Our Shepherd did not bring most of his sheep nearly all the way home. He fulfills: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one" (John 18:9). This great high priest "saves to the uttermost" those who draw near to God through him (Hebrews 7:25). "For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14). His towering declaration from the height of the cross dealt not with nearlys, almosts, or mostlys, but rather — "It is finished!" (John 19:30).

Finishing with Feast

Brothers, our work is not his work, but let us learn from our Master, who embodied the second half of the proverb perfectly: "The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, but diligence is man's precious possession" (Proverbs 12:27 NKJV). Where are the men of diligence in the church today, men who follow-through, men who sprint through the finish line? Athletic men in the world exercise self-control in all things, but do so for a perishable wreath — should we not much more do so for the imperishable (1 Corinthians 9:25)?

Let's be the few men on earth known for finishing the good we start in our families, our work, our churches, our communities, our nation, our world. Let our "yes" be yes and the quality of our commitments never be questioned. "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10). You serve the Lord. Let each of us, in our own ways, end our lives saying after our Master, "I have glorified you on the earth. I have finished the work which you have given me to do" (John 17:4 NKJV).

And may we enjoy the roasted feast from the good works for which we labored with all our might.

In His Name & For His Glory,

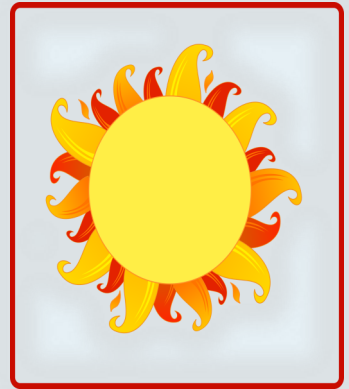
Pastor Tim



What is a missionary?

These service-minded people go into a community and live among the people there, with the ultimate goal of teaching them about the **Good News of Jesus**.

Plenty of Missionary books to check out in the church lobby, time for some summer reading



Prison Letters by Corrie Ten Boom

In the Presence of my Enemies by Garcia Burnham

Lord of the Abandoned by Ray Saunders

A Flame for God by David Brainerd

Children's Church

The children of the church are really enjoying Sunday School. We are learning stories from the Bible. Moses and the parting of the sea. Samson, who is strong and faithful, and Ruth, becoming a girl of loyalty.



DISCIPLESHIP

Sunday School

We have decided to take a break for the summer months from Sunday School. We more than likely will have an Aviation Missionary during EAA week...more information to follow.

We also, reserve the right to interrupt the break for a Puritan Biography during the Summer Hiatus. However, for the majority of the summer until the Sunday after Labor Day we will not be having Sunday School.

Men's and Women's Bible Study

The Thursday Women's Bible Study is breaking for the summer and will return in Early September. The Saturday Men's and Women's Bible Study will continue for a few more weeks as we both have goals that we want to meet before taking a summer break until the Saturday after Labor Day. I would suggest that during these breaks that you continue with maybe a personal study that will help you to continue to "grow in the Grace and Knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

In His Name & For His Glory, Pastor Tim

Deaconess News

Thank you church family for making Gaylord's Funeral blessed.
Many appreciations to all the wonderful side dishes and desserts. It was a great witness to Diane and Gaylord's families.

Coming soon Church Picnic in July.





Sunday Evening Services Schedule

June 4—Prayer @ 5:00 pm

June 11 —Ask Pastor Tim @ 5:00pm

June 18 –No Evening Service

June 25—Prayer @ 5:00 pm



Financial Update 2023
Budget needed weekly: \$ 2836.35
Received: \$ 3,214.80 per week
Contact Mark Wildenberg with questions.



Women's Prayer
Wednesdays at 9:30am

Women's Bible Study
Thursdays at 1:00pm
No studies through summer

Men's & Women's
Bible Study
Saturdays at 8am

Connect
WITH OUR
CHURCH FAMILY



June 04
Kyle Tubbs

June 11
Howard Schimke

June 18
Bob Abitz

June 25
Scott Smith



**Please contact Carol Smith at
(920) 788-9795
to volunteer for Nursery**

Missions

“Go Ye into all the World, and preach
the Gospel to every creature.”

Mark 16:15

MISSIONS BOARD

Missions Board will meet June 5th to review the Yearly Update forms, which have been returned by each of our missionaries. We hope to have good highlights for you in the upcoming Missions Spotlights.

Young at Heart will be providing our monthly service at Care Partners on Thursday June 1. If you would be interested in joining us, please see Lynn Abitz.

Our next Praise Connection will be held on Saturday, June 3, at Mark and Nancy Wildenberg's home in Neenah. Please see the bulletin insert for details or speak to Lynn, Doris, or Diane.



Single Women's Ministry

The **Single Women's Ministry** will be meeting at 11:30am June 11th
Any questions please contact Gail Kroehler at 920-731-7739.

FRBC Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.



01—Lori DeCleene

03—Rick Hinz

04—Christopher Smith

05—Jean Bintzler

07—Bruce Sowders

20—Sheryl Zwerg

25—Gary Snortum

27—Betty Callahan

04—Pat and Angela Groff

11—Chuck and Jean Bintzler

13—Bill and Doris Olson

Fox River Baptist Church

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**Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday
& Thursday - 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm**



Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new Prayer request email address:

Prayer@FoxRiverBaptist.com

Care to be part of the prayer chain?

Email or call Becky Godfrey at
becl.godfrey@gmail.com —
(920) 277-1526