

July 2023



Fox River Life



July 2023 Newsletter Article

The following article is written by John Piper who is founder and teacher of desiringGod.org and chancellor of Bethlehem College & Seminary. For 33 years, he served as pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is a prolific author of more than 50 books.

Pilgrims

We are pilgrims. We are exiles, sojourners, refugees ourselves in a very refugee-heightened culture. First Peter 2:11 says, "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles." And Philipians 3:20 says, "Our citizenship is in heaven." So, the question, I think, is being framed rightly. We are citizens of heaven. We are sojourners and pilgrims on the earth, and that is owing to the fact that this world is fallen, not the fact that it is created.

We are going to spend eternity in a created world. So, we are not aliens because earth is a bad thing, but Satan won't be the god of that world anymore like he is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). That is what makes us feel so alien here. It is that the god of this world is Satan, and he holds such extensive sway in the systems of this world.

The world is permeated with sin, and it makes us feel like we are not at home. We are aching that we would be done with sin and at home with Jesus in the presence of his holiness (2 Corinthians 5:8). Holiness is the native air a Christian wants to breathe. When I say we are aliens and exiles and sojourners and pilgrims,

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I don't mean that the earth is a place we despise. I mean that the structures we find ourselves in are so permeated with sin that we want something new.

Love for Your Home

However, I think God means for us to be enmeshed in the world in various ways. We are not to go out of the world. We are in the world. We are not supposed to be of the world (John 17:15–19). We are in a city. We are in a state. We are in a county or a country and a continent.

There are all kinds of these geographical and cultural allegiances or identifications that we have. And if I ask, now, what is patriotism in this kind of paradoxical enmeshment, my answer is that patriotism is a special love or affection, endearment for fatherland. It could be a city. It could be a state, or even a neighborhood. It could be a tribe. It could be an ethnicity. And that love is different from the general love that Christians have for everybody or for the whole world. The reason I think that is true, and there are several reasons, but one is that there are these special affections indicated in the Bible in various ways.

Love for Your Neighbor

For example, in Galatians 6:10 it says, "As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." It is as though there is this specialness about those who are close to you, who have a similar deep bond to you. We have a kind of affection for them that is different from the world.

Or 1 Timothy 5:8, "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith." So, it seems like it is right not only to have this general love for everybody that covers the world, covers our neighbors, covers our enemies, but also and especially for our families or those near to us.

Paul himself said in Romans 9:3 that he had a special burden for "my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh." It doesn't seem to me that he would have written like that if it weren't appropriate for him to feel some kind of special affection for his fellow Jews, a kind of patriotism for his ethnicity of Jewishness. So, there is something about this flesh, this close identity, that being bound together in a family way or a cultural way that makes us love them with an unusual kind or a special kind of affection.

Four Loves

I was trying to think through, now, is this legitimate? I mean I am pointing out that it exists, that we have got pointers in the Bible. But it was C.S. Lewis who helped me with some categories in his book *The Four Loves*. He said that there is the love of philo, which is friendship, the love of eros, which is sex, and the love of agape, which is the love of God. Then he added there is this love called storge, which I find to be the most interesting one.

Storge is a kind of affection that you feel for a pair of slippers that you have worn way too many years and your wife wants you to throw them out. "No way you are going to throw these slippers out! They fit like a glove." Or, for Noël it is sweaters that I wear until the elbows are gone because I sit here at my desk, rubbing my elbows all the time — and she wants to toss them out. And I say, "No! I love this sweater." It has got associations. This is what he means by storge, a little kid who has a rag doll that is just rags is what it is. They wouldn't part with it for anything. That is a little kind of patriotism that is probably very, very good, very admissible. At least C.S. Lewis makes a case that it is.

There is an old tree that Noël and I carved our initials in. In fact it is gone now. It made me so mad. For decades, for three and a half decades, we went back to Wheaton and we walked to that tree and we could actually find 30 years later those initials just barely discernible as the bark was gnarling over. Well, we liked that tree. We like that tree more than other trees. And so on.

You get the idea that there is this kind of affection for a tree or a city or a fatherland or a language or a culture, and it is because it fits you. When you leave it, you get on a plane, you go to another country, yeah, there is an excitement and a challenge and a stimulation of going other places, but there is something inside that, when you come home, it just feels wonderful to eat the food and lie in your own bed and be in your own living room and walk your own streets and hear your own language. All that seems to be something that God puts his approval on.

Sweet Land of Liberty

I think, yes, there is such a thing, a good thing, as patriotism. With regard to nations, it seems

David Hilt

After 21 years of mobilization efforts in the Mid-Atlantic/Greater Northeast, Dave and Joyce transitioned to Southwest USA in 2020. Prior to taking their stateside role as representatives and global missions advocates, Dave and Joyce served 16 years in Papua New Guinea. They began their field ministry in a Highlands people group and then moved to reach a people group on a small island in the mid-80s. Deteriorating health forced them to leave this area.

Dave and Joyce returned to the mainland and served on the field headquarters publications team where Dave supervised the graphics department as well as offering assistance to missionaries through practical helps in outlying areas with his building skills. He also assisted in training national believers for ministry, taught Bible classes in a government school and taught a journalism class at the mission boarding school.

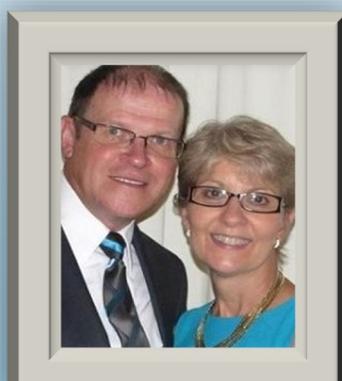
Joyce served in bookkeeping and was a proofreader/typesetter for the publications team. She conducted classes in domestic care for national women and developed a local ladies outreach ministry through Bible studies. Joyce also assisted in teaching classes at the boarding school and provided music/piano instruction.

Together Dave and Joyce ministered to co-workers through their gifts of hospitality and helps. Dave and Joyce worked with another couple as spiritual advisors with two of the high school classes.

Before partnering with Ethnos360, the Hilt served in local church ministries in south-central Pennsylvania. They began in youth ministry and then conducted focused Bible teaching among young families, eventually developing an evangelism and home-discipleship outreach in their community. It was at this juncture of life when God challenged them to embrace missions in light of the Apostle Paul's declaration in Romans 15:20: "to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named."

Dave and Joyce are available to speak to your church, in conferences, in small group settings, in home meetings, in camps, schools, colleges, to children and teens, and to host a variety of cultural events to stimulate the greater interest of God's heart for the world. Schedule them to help you grasp a deeper focus of God's heart for the world. Or as Dave says, "to show you what you don't know you don't know."

The Hilt's passion is to see the Lord raise up those who will go to the ends of the earth in planting churches among the nations. Perhaps they could assist your church's or individual's interest in missions. Dave and Joyce bring with them a fresh and invigorating focus on missions, often using drama and other visual means to stimulate a greater interest in missions.



David Hilt will be speaking during Sunday School on July 30th at 10:45 till 11:15.

or a nation state identity has the right to use that sword to defend itself against aggression and, thus, in some sense preserve its right to exist and exist as it exists. And so, I think that implies that there is a proper place for patriotism at the national level .

Maybe we should wrap it up by saying: Whatever form your patriotism takes, let it be a deep sense that we are more closely bound to brothers and sisters in Christ in other countries, other cultures than we are to our closest unbelieving compatriot or family member in the fatherland or in the neighborhood. That is really crucial to feel, I think. Otherwise, I think our patriotism is drifting over into idolatry.

God is our King, not man. His kingdom is our final allegiance, but under that banner it is right to be thankful that God gave us our land freely. I am thinking now particularly of America. He gave this to us freely. I didn't deserve to be born here. It wasn't my choice. We don't deserve this place any more than I deserve any other common grace or special grace. It is right to be thankful that people paid a high price to preserve our land with its freedoms and its cultural distinctives. And it is right to be thankful that we have all these cultural slippers to put on that we don't want to throw away.

We Are Exiles

But I have to come back in closing to our alien-exile-sojourner status as the main thing. We are citizens of heaven before we are earthly patriots, which means that there are bound to be conflicts between the way Christ our King calls us to live and the ways our beloved homeland expects us to live from time to time.

The other reminder that the culture and ethos of the earthly homeland we love, the other reminder that I have to give is that it is not static. That is, the thing I love about America is that it is not static. It is changing. It is always changing. It always has been changing. The America today is not the America of the 50s, which means that there is a sense of conflict, not only between our earthly homeland and other cultures, but also between what our earthly homeland was and what it is becoming.

And so, how do you do patriotism when what you regard as your own culture is in a process of transformation? And in both of those kinds of conflicts, the ones from outside, the ones from inside, our stance, I think, should be not primarily as earthly cultural preservers. That is my main job. My main mentality is to produce a preservation of my pure culture. Because I think that produced the horror of Nazi Germany where the Aryan race was the Germanic race and prized so highly and preserved so intensely, it resulted in the slaughter of other people.

Humble Origins

So, we have got to be very careful about exalting our racial or ethnic or cultural patriotism or at-homeness, our slippers, to the point where we begin to demonize and actually hurt others. Our stance should be, we are Christians first, and as challenges come to our culture from within and from without, we bring kingdom values to bear on these challenges, not just earthly preferences. I think C.S. Lewis might say: Agape, the love of God, orders storge. It orders philos. It orders eros. In other words, these earthly loves of friend and sex and affections for country and for our favorite slippers are ordered and kept in their proper place by a superior allegiance to God. Our love for God is primary. Only the value of our King, God, Jesus can bring a right ordering of the value of our earthly loves. Only our heavenly Father, our heavenly patriotism, can order our earthly patriotism.

In His Name & For His Glory,

Pastor Tim

Children's Church



Hello Church Family,

We are enjoying our time in Children's Church each Sunday.

There is a lot of energy and enthusiasm in that room!!

We briefly go through basic biblical accounts of people and events that they need to learn and then have activities relating to the lesson. Among their favorite activities are using playdoh, glue, stickers and blocks!

This past month we learned about David and Goliath, Samson, Jonah and the whale, and Daniel in the loins den.

A fun time is had by all!

DISCIPLESHIP

Sunday School

Even though we are taking a break from all of the Men's and Women's Bible Studies and our regular Sunday School for the months of July and August, we still will have one Sunday School class in July and August where we will do a Puritan Biography. For the month of July that will take place on Sunday the 16th.

Men's and Women's Bible Study

The Thursday Women's Bible Study is breaking for the summer and will return in Early September. 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

Church Picnic

**Sunday, July 23rd, after Worship Service, meeting at Scott and Carol
Smith's house
N234 Springfield Dr. Appleton**

Hot Dogs, Brats and Hamburgers provided





Sunday Evening Services Schedule

- July 2—Ask Pastor Tim @ 5:00 pm
- July 9 —Prayer @ 5:00 pm
- July 16 –Solus Christus@ 5:00pm
- July 23--No Evening Service
- July 30—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



July 2
Ryan Smith

July 9
Pat Groff

July 16
Christopher Smith

July 23
Ray Rudzinski

July 30
Jeffery 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 August 28th at 6:30 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 July 6th. If you would be interested in joining us, please see Lynn Abitz.



Single Women's Ministry

The **Single Women's Ministry** will be meeting at July 16 after church service

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

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Website: foxriverbaptist.com

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



Life

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