

Christian Book Signing Slated For Yankton

The concept of holiness makes many, if not most, people uncomfortable. Wayne Sharp, minister of the Yankton Church of Christ, believes that reaction is partly due to the fact that what it means to be holy is an often misunderstood concept.

Sharp will be on hand to discuss his work at a book signing Saturday, April 20, running from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the main lobby of the Marne Creek Professional Center at 610 West 23rd St.

"I've been impressed with the number of times holiness is mentioned in Scripture," Sharp says. "As I developed this study, I thought about how a misperception of holiness leads to a misunderstanding of Christianity as a whole.

Sharp has been a minister of the Gospel since graduating from Denver's Bear Valley Bible Institute in 1977. He has served Churches of Christ in New Mexico, spending about 25 years in Albuquerque. He has also preached in Texas and now serves Yankton's Church of Christ at 1114 W. 12th St.

"My book isn't an academic work," Sharp says. "That wasn't the style I wanted to use for this study. The translated meaning of holy is 'set apart,' but there is also a moral or ethical component of holiness. I think it's important and helpful for Christians to understand what God is saying when he commands us to be like him, to be holy."

"If we don't understand the holiness of God, we're in great danger of misunderstanding all His other attributes and our relationship with God," Sharp says. "That misunderstanding could prevent us from fully appreciating all God does for us and what He wants to do for us."

"I hope this study will cause readers to be more and more in awe of God, as it has me," Sharp says. "Through the Magnifying Lens of Holiness" is available online at The Carpenter Shop (2020 Elm St., Yankton) www.prairieheartpublishingllc.com, or at the office of Prairie Hearth Publishing, LLC, 610 West 23rd St, Ste 11, Yankton.

The paperback and Kindle version of the book are also available through Amazon.

Freeman Academy Hosting Discovery Day

FREEMAN — Freeman Academy is hosting Discovery Day 2013 on Tuesday, April 30, running from 12:15-3 p.m.

Discovery Day provides the opportunity for current fourth and fifth graders to experience a fun afternoon of activities at Freeman Academy.

Freeman Academy is a fully accredited private Christian school offering college preparatory education for students in grades 1-12. During Discovery Day the visiting students will have the opportunity to discover firsthand the educational and social atmosphere at the school.

Preregister by Friday, April 26. For more details and to preregister, contact Bonnie Young at 925-4237 ext. 225 or by email at byoung@freemanacademy.org.

Students currently in grades 6-11 are encouraged to contact Bonnie Young to schedule individual campus visits. An evening open house featuring Freeman Academy's 1-4 program will be held in May for parents of students currently in grades K-3.

Riverview Reformed Offering Garden Plots

Riverview Reformed Church at 1700 Burleigh Street, Yankton, is making space again this year for community garden plots. The plot are a raised bed garden with a compost and topsoil mix. They measure 4 feet by 12 feet. Water is available at the site with hose and sprinkler.

The fee to assist in water and materials expenses is \$25. Plots will be available May 1. To reserve your spot, call 665-9204.

Facing Darkness Without Fear

BY DAVID GUNDERSON
Pastor/Chaplain, St. John's Lutheran Church



REFLECTIONS

Grandma finished the dishes and then asked her four year old grandson, Billy to go to the back porch and get the broom. Billy gladly went but as he approached the porch it was very dark and he was scared, so he came back empty handed. Grandma asked him, "Where is the broom?" Billy replied, "Grandma it's scary out there!" Grandma replied, "Billy you learned in Sunday school that Jesus is everywhere?" Billy said, "Yes! Is Jesus on that back porch?" Grandma says, "Yes He is. Jesus is everywhere!" So with new confidence Billy walked to the back porch, opened the door and reached his hand into the darkness and said, "Jesus please hand me the broom!"

I shared that story at my chaplain's basic training twenty three years ago. At that time the United States wasn't involved in any land war, but then came Desert Storm eight months later, followed by September 11th, and that was followed by more wars, more terrorist attacks, and now another bombing in Boston that has destroyed lives. For many folks the future looks very dark, and like little Billy they are scared. But God's word suggests a different attitude.

Throughout the scriptures God encourages us to not be afraid. The phrase, "Fear Not" ap-

pears about 365 times in the Bible which possibly suggests that each and every day we need to remember not to fear, but rather to remember that our lives are in the hands of the one who made heaven and earth, and made us.

That doesn't mean there won't be more bombings or terrorist attacks, but instead of letting them shut us down, we keep on doing what we need to do. Obviously, we will take the proper precautions and there will be increased security measures that cause us some inconveniences at airports, sporting events and other major activities, but instead of being stuck behind closed doors living in fear we will venture forth. As we venture into the future darkness we do it with confidence of knowing our Lord is there for us!

In Psalm 23 it reads, "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil, for you are with me." The "you" in that verse refers to the Lord, who is my Shepherd. In John 10, Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd who gave His life to save us from all our enemies including death. Through Jesus resurrection on Easter Sunday

death has lost its sting. The 23rd Psalm declares "as I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I shall fear no evil". Shadows can be scary, but they can't harm us. In the same way death can be scary, but it has lost its sting because Christ has defeated death by his rising from the grave.

In Christ we know we have a future beyond the grave and that changes the way we live now. St. Paul stated it this way, "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." Instead of living in fear of the future we are called to be busy doing the work God has given us to do. That work includes everything from caring for family and friends, to feeding the hungry, to helping the poor and sick, and to basically taking on the role of a servant for others. That work also includes enjoying the blessings God has given to us, whether it is attending a concert, going to a ball game or running in a race.

As one pastor often states, "We don't know what the future holds but we do know who holds the future and that one is Christ Jesus, My Lord and Savior!" God's Peace in Christ.

Popes Have Faith In Columbian Tailor

BY CHRIS KRAUL
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CALI, Colombia — To say Luis Abel Delgado of Cali occupies a special niche in the global rag trade is an understatement: He's made vestments for two Roman Catholic popes, as well as inaugural sashes for several Latin American presidents.

His sartorial skills have taken him from extreme poverty in southwest Colombia to the Vatican and several presidential palaces as an honored guest.

He says that he's on a first-name basis with newly elected Pope Francis, who calls him Abelito, and that he spoke monthly with Pope Benedict XVI.

"The new pope is as humble as they say. He insists I call him Don Francisco," Delgado said at his modest apartment in a southern suburb of Cali. He first met former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio on one of the six annual trips he made to the Vatican to fit Benedict.

Francis telephoned Delgado in Cali the night of his election, March 13, to discuss nine garments — cassocks, embroidered tunics, belts and ceremonial hats

called miters — that he ordered for his investiture. "Abelito, make them white ones with black embroidery," Delgado said Francis told him.

The Vatican did not respond to requests for confirmation of the conversation. But Delgado's photo album showing him with Benedict, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos and Panamanian chief executive Ricardo Martinelli, among others, speaks of the rarefied air he has breathed.

It's a dizzying rise in status for someone who was so poor growing up that he spent a year in Pasto living under a bridge and following his mother as she sang and played guitar for pennies at the city bus terminal. In 2003, then-President Alvaro Uribe presented Delgado with the Order of Boyaca, one of the nation's highest honors.

"It's the will of God," Delgado said just before he began a weekly prayer meeting with about a dozen friends.

Yet Delgado has also known tragedy. His wife and 5-year-old son were killed by a stray bullet in 2004 as they sat in a Cali restaurant. A deeply religious

man, his voice dropped as he remembered. "It was his plan," he said, then looked away, refusing to talk about it further.

Making the high-profile garments from the thread and 300 yards of fine cloth that the Vatican sends him each year is really just a hobby, he disclosed. His day job, which he insisted he will never give up, is working as the brigade tailor at the army base, making and mending fatigues and uniforms for army grunts and brass alike.

Delgado has had a lifelong fascination with religious objects related to Roman Catholicism. As a 6-year-old, he began making votive statues of Jesus and the Virgin Mary out of candle wax and scraps of clothing he collected.

In his teens, he began sewing vestments for priests in his small town near the Ecuadorean border. After landing a tailor's job with the army at 15, he also made liturgical items and vestments for the base chapel. Gradually, Delgado's artistry came to the attention of the church hierarchy. Cali's archbishop, the now-retired Juan Francisco Sarasti, became a client.

The turning point came in May 2007, when Pope Benedict

visited Brazil. Colombian bishops presented the prelate with several liturgical items, including a miter, that Delgado had made.

"Two months later, I got a letter from the pope saying he had seen my work and required my services for other things. [The Vatican] bought me air tickets, and in October I arrived in Rome. And I started making the things he needed," Delgado said.

"For Benedict I made 42 liturgical objects, 35 miters and three capes over five years and three months," Delgado said. "His holiness was more than a boss, but a friend also. He insisted I call him Benedict."

Delgado said Pope Francis has called him several times and has assured him that his job as the pope's tailor is secure. "He gave me his blessing, and then asked me for mine," Delgado said of one of the calls.

The tailor said he is working on a sash that Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa will wear when he is inaugurated for a third term in May.

He says he prefers to work alone, without assistants, because "I've never been able to find anyone else who can do this kind of delicate work."

CHURCH SCHEDULES

Table with multiple columns listing church names, addresses, and service times. Columns include: Abundant Life, Baptist, Catholic, Church of Christ, Lutheran, Non-Denominational, United Methodist, Bible Church, Episcopal, Evangelical, and Reformed.

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