



First Edition

February 2015



First Baptist Church of San Mateo 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas San Mateo, CA 94403 650-345-1965 www.fbcsanmateo.org

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Chief Sitting Bull??

Submitted by Pastor Marc Heinz

Custer's Last Stand: three little words that epitomize complete and utter defeat—except for the victors.

On the otherwise peaceful afternoon of June 25, 1876, Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer, commanding officer of the U.S. 7th Cavalry, bivouacked in a postcard-like setting of southeast Montana known as Little Big Horn. His orders were to “subdue the Indian uprising.”

To Custer that was a license to perform genocide on the Sioux nation. The end result, however, was the most lopsided defeat ever suffered by the United States military.

George Custer was a West Point graduate and a seasoned war strategist. His tactics were often criticized, but never his success ratio. This man knew how to wage war—and win.

So, how was this expertly trained and highly decorated veteran out-planned, out-foxed, and out-fought by some of history's most independent and disjointed people?

The answer comes in the name of one man: Chief Sitting Bull, the spiritual leader among the fractured Sioux nation. Though he had neither a formal education nor charismatic sway, he single-handedly defined his nation's purpose and vision. His leadership was built upon quiet humility. Simple wisdom and compelling persuasion were his calling cards.

For years he had warned his people of the impending trespass of the white man; of the broken treaties; of the needless killing of Ta Tanka (the great beast or buffalo). He spoke with fiery passion and vivid imagery. Picking up a pinch of earth he said he would not give up “even

this much” of the Black Hills to such a murderous people.

But the Sioux elders were tired and discouraged. Failed promises had left open wounds and ugly scars. “Nothing will stop the white man's migration,” they said. “The Great White Father has too many sons to fight.”

That kind of thinking was unacceptable to Sitting Bull.

As a result, he turned his attention to the new generation of young rising Sioux stars. He appealed to their idealism and energy.

To Four Horns, the philosophical conscience of the younger Sioux, he spoke of social justice. “Can a people who slaughter Ta Tanka be trusted?”

To Gall, the strongest of all Sioux warriors, he asked, “Will you allow others to wrestle away your dignity?”

To Crazy Horse, the rising military phenom, he demanded, “Will you stand by and watch your heritage be destroyed?”

Finally, Sitting Bull issued a call for all Sioux to stand and fight in the sacred land of The Greasy Grass—Little Big Horn—to honor the legacy of their ancestors. To reject his invitation would be to disinherit their past. By battling the Blue Coats on that sacred ground, the Sioux could draw strength from former generations. If they died there it would honor their nation's cause.

But if they won it would perpetuate their manifest destiny.

And so they fought ... as no army had ever fought. Custer never had a chance. Sitting Bull's persuasive vision, and the proud warriors he inspired, made sure of that.

Every generation has had its vision-

ary leaders like Sitting Bull—those who were forced to prod the naysayers in order to do the unthinkable. How much more powerful has been the battle cry of those appointed by God to faithfully wage war against a darkened world?

Like Jeremiah. For 40 years he faithfully proclaimed God's judgment on apostate Judah, all the while enduring opposition.

Isaiah's bio reads the same, as does Hosea's and Amos' and Joel's. And though the response was rarely promising, the prophets' resolve never wavered.

We, too, have been appointed. Today we are that tribe of passion-filled leaders—faithful men and women armed with a beacon, turning darkness into light. We are certainly outnumbered. But never has a hostile culture or apathetic church been safe when God's forces of faith and determined vision were unleashed.

As the pint-sized shepherd said as he loaded his slingshot with a divine and laser-guided rock, “For the battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hands.”

Blessings,
Ron Walters, General Mgr.
Salem Communications

“If you want God to do something new, you cannot keep doing the same old thing.”

Mark Batterson
“Draw the Circle”

Two Things to Do

By Pastor Marc Heinz

In order to follow Jesus Christ, two things need to happen in your life. First, you need a confession of faith that brings you into a personal relationship with the God that created you.

Second, you need a conversion of life. This begins as you internalize and apply God's truth to every single aspect of your daily life. While both of these processes are vitally necessary to follow Christ, I have found the conversion of life to be the most difficult. How exactly do you live a converted life? What does it mean? How does it happen?

The Christian life is a continuing education program. The more we know about God and His Word, the more we are being changed into His likeness. And since this process is life long, we must never cease learning and growing. Folks, it is so important that each of us continually be growing in our knowledge and love of God. We need God's values, we need to be shaped and molded by Him, but the fact is that will not happen if you are not constantly learning and spending quality time with Him. And of course, the primary way to do that is through the study of His Word.

Webster's College Dictionary defines the word study as: "the application of the mind to the acquisition of knowledge as by reading, investigation, or reflection." Now I find that this definition is both insightful and helpful, because it reminds me that it is only through the application of all three of these elements can I effectively study and find Biblically based solutions to the issues which I face in my daily life.

Learning to understand and apply God's truth may not always be easy, it is certainly worthwhile! Remember God's Word is not only active and living it is very powerful! Therefore if you want your life to be all that it can be, if you want to move forward in God and grow in your personal relationship with the Lord, you need to make spending time with Him and His Word a daily priority. Be diligent and work hard to make your time with God meaningful, significant and worthy of the One who died that you might live!

I urge you with every ounce of my being to continue to expand your knowledge and love of God! Allow Him to set the pace in your life! Make God the priority of your life and you will not only find the power to live rightly, but you will be blessed, as you grow deeper in Him.

Revival in Him Brings Fullness

By Doug Andrews

These last few months we've been challenged and encouraged to fully seek the Lord and to know Him deeply in our lives. And from following Him completely, revival comes. The interesting thing about revival, is that if it needs to come, then that must mean we are in need of life. That's what the Lord has been showing us over all these years in ministry here at FBC. That we needed to be revived. Not in our programs and events. Not in our numbers and giving. But in our commitment and connection to Christ. And with that revival, the previously stated things may come (if He so chooses) in authenticity. So it's to Him that each of us individually must seek and re-covenant with Him. And then when we do that, revival comes.

In his book "Revive Us Again" Walter Kaiser says,

"The joy of the Lord comes, because we are forgiven, because we have communion and fellowship with the Lord, and finally because we have an understanding of God's Word. So central is this Word for discernment or understanding. When God's people understand that Word, there is no containing the holy joy, deep satisfaction, and contentment that overtake the believing community."

Many times I've looked at my circumstances here at FBC in ministry and only seen certain things that some would say are discouraging. But even though they may seem real, these are not true reality. This is determined by what God Himself says and what He shows us in the spiritual realm. So instead, I'm continually encouraged by His Word to us that He is here with us, His Word to us that He is working in our midst, His presence with us in worship and in the preaching of His Word. I see Him working in His Sunday school classes, Worship Ministry and in the Youth Ministry. I see God developing a greater hunger for Him and His Word, and a greater sensitivity to His true leading. I've found through these 17 years in ministry here, that even though times may get hard, the greatest thing about ministry... and life itself... is Him. Knowing Him and relying on His Word for me in my situation. And the great truth is, that even greater fullness is available for you and me. I was greatly encouraged and challenged by C.H. Spurgeon:

"And of his fullness have all we received."—John 1:16.

These words tell us that there is a fullness in Christ. There is a fullness of essential Deity, for *"in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead."* There is a fullness of perfect manhood, for in Him, bodily, that Godhead was revealed. There is a fullness of atoning efficacy in His blood, for *"the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin."* There is a fullness of justifying righteousness in His life, for *"there is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus."* There is a fullness of divine prevalence in His plea, for *"He is able to save to the uttermost them that come unto God by Him; seeing He ever lives to make intercession for them."* There is a fullness of victory in His death, for through death He destroyed him that had the power of death, that is the devil. There is a fullness of efficacy in His resurrection from the dead, for by it *"we are begotten again unto a lively hope."* There is a fullness of triumph in His ascension, for *"when He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and received gifts for men."*

There is a fullness of blessings of every sort and shape; a fullness of grace to pardon, of grace to regenerate, of grace to sanctify, of grace to preserve, and of grace to perfect. There is a fullness at all times; a fullness of comfort in affliction; a fullness of guidance in prosperity. A fullness of every divine attribute, of wisdom, of power, of love; a fullness which it were impossible to survey, much less to explore. *"It pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell."*

Oh, what a fullness must this be of which all receive! Fullness, indeed, must there be when the stream is always flowing, and yet the well springs up as free, as rich, as full as ever. Come, believer, and get all you need supplied; ask largely, and you shall receive largely, for this "fullness" is inexhaustible, and is treasured up where all the needy may reach it, even in Jesus, Immanuel—God with us.

Let's come to Him individually and together to experience His fullness in our lives and in His church together as we strive to live for His Kingdom and watch Him build it through us.

Food for Thought

Submitted by Doris Waddell

I've been reading Richard Foster's "Freedom of Simplicity" where he writes about a "small and insignificant" experience that changed his life. (If you have a copy, it's on pages 93-95: "Living at the Center")

He calls what came after that experience "living out of the Center."

"I am of course referring to God, but I do not mean God in the abstract theological sense, nor even God in the sense of One to be feared and revered. Nor do I mean God only in the sense of One to be loved and obeyed. For years I loved God and sought to obey him, but he remained on the periphery of my life. God and Christ were extremely important to me but certainly not the Center. After all, I had many tasks and aspirations that did not relate to God in the least. What, for heaven's sake, did swimming and gardening have to do with God? I was deeply committed, but I was not integrated or unified. I thought that serving God was another duty to be added onto an already busy schedule.

"But slowly I came to see that God desired to be not on the outskirts, but at the heart of my experience. Gardening was no longer an experience outside of my relationship with God -- I discovered God in the gardening. Swimming was no longer just good exercise -- it became an opportunity for communion with God. God in Christ had become the Center."



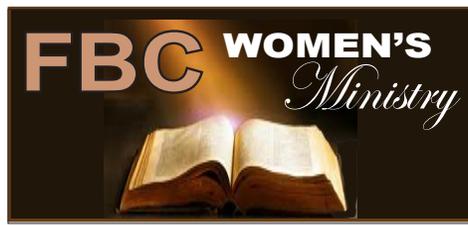
Children's Ministry

By Alba

HomeFront is a FREE monthly resource that gives parents ideas on how to create fun, spiritually forming times in their home – even in the midst of their busy lives. This digital magazine can be sent right to your inbox each month (sign up at <http://www.homefront-mag.com>) or download the app on your mobile device. This convenience makes it easy for parents & grandparents to shape a vibrant faith in the lives of their children. We also print a limited number of HomeFront magazines, so if you are not able to get this resource on your mobile device or in your inbox, pick up at copy outside

Alba's office.

This month's issue is full of suggestions for fun and purposeful family time.



Retreat Coming Up

By Sandy Murray

Women's Ministry Retreat

Redwood Glen

On March 20th - 22nd, Friday - Sunday

An opportunity to grow in the word and have fellowship with other women of FBC and friends is yours by filling out the registration form found on another page of First Edition and inserted in the weekly bulletins. It will be two nights this year as requested from many who attended last year. It is an opportunity to get away and have some time alone with God.

The vision of FBC Women's Ministry is "That all who participate in this ministry will . . . grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18, NASB) and encourage their family, friends, and others to do likewise."

Studies in James Continue

Tuesday nights, February 4 and 18, 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.



Coming Soon

Fiesta and Fellowship

February 28.

11:00AM - 1:00PM

Delicious Mexican Style Lunch Prepared and Served by

**Angie and Janine
Love Offering for Retreat Scholarships**



IS GOD ASKING?

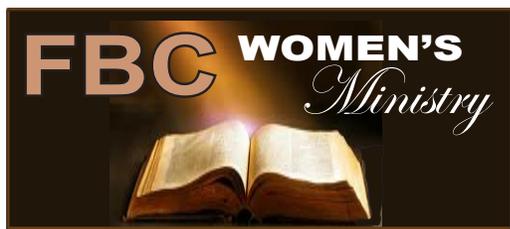
By David Shong

"Where are you?" -- a question for the ages. God asked this question of Adam and Eve when they disobeyed God's command, "You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die."

As followers of Jesus, we are held to a higher standard when it comes to proclaiming Him as our Savior. When we come to our judgment day, will God be asking you, "Where were you?"

This world, this time, what is God asking of you?

As individuals in this complex time, we can rest assured that being and believing in the Word of God, that life is not as complicated as we tend to make it. Yes, there are hardships, times of sorrow, reasons to feel God is nowhere around, but those who have had these feelings and their faith appear to fare much better than those whose faith is cyclical.



**Registration Form
for FBC Women's Winter Retreat
March 20, 21, 22, 2015
Friday - Sunday
Deadline for Registration is March 12.**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

_____ I am willing to room with anyone attending the retreat

_____ I prefer to room with _____

_____ I would not mind being in a triple.

_____ I would like a single.

Amount for Retreat: \$186.00 for double occupancy;
\$240 for Single
\$169 for Triple
Includes 2 nights lodging and 6

meals.

Please make your check out to **First Baptist Church.**

Paid _____

Carpooling:

I can drive _____ I can take _____ (number of women)

I plan to leave the church parking lot at _____ (time).

_____ I need a ride.

Partial scholarships are available, or if you would like to provide a scholarship, please see Sandy Murray or contact her at Belmontron@aol.com or 650-591-2566.

Registration forms are available in the Sunday bulletins through March 8th.



**Bay Area Sunday School
Conference**

March 5, 6, & 7, 2015

**Redwood Chapel Community
Church, 19300 Redwood Road
Castro Valley, CA**

**Training and equipping workers in
the church since 1963**

It's that time of the year again. First Baptist Church has registered spaces for all who wish to learn ways to teach, to better understand the needs of people, and many other helpful ways to improve your ministry.

This is for you at no cost. There will be opportunities to carpool and that information will be forth coming soon as well.

If you you may register at their website (www.bassconvention.org) or call (510)585-9914.

About the Retreat

By Sandy Murray

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A Part of a Prayer from "Spurgeon's Prayers"

"Oh Lord, thou hast done such great things for us that we feel the drawings of thy love. 'The Lord hath appeared of old unto me saying: Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.'

"Draw us nearer, Lord, draw us into the inner sanctuary, draw us within the place which once was hidden by the veil which Christ has rent; bring us right up to the throne of grace, and there beholding the glory of God above the Mercy Seat may we have communion with the Most High. Heal all our diseases and forgive us all our trespasses.

"Still, Lord, though healed of a former lameness so that now we have strength we need a further touch from thee; we are so apt to get dull and stupid; come and help us, Lord Jesus. A vision of thy face will brighten us, but to feel thy Spirit touching us will make us vigorous. Oh! for the leaping and the walking of the man born lame. May we today dance with holy joy like David before the Ark of God. May a holy exhilaration take possession of every part of us; may we be glad in the Lord; may our mouth be filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing, 'for the Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad'.

"Today help thy people to put on Christ. May we live as those who are alive from the dead, for he is the quickening Spirit; and may we feel him to be so. Is any part of us still dead, Lord, quicken it. May the life which has taken possession of our heart take possession of our head; may the brain be active in holy thought; may our entire being, indeed, respond to the life of Christ, and may we live in newness of life.

"We would fain fall down on our faces and worship the Son of God today. It is such a wonder that he should have loved us; and he has done wonderful things for us and in us that we may still call him God's unspeakable gift. He is

unspeakably precious to our souls. Thou knowest all things, Lord; thou knowest that we love thee. May that love bubble up today like a boiling cauldron, may our hearts overflow; and if we cannot speak what we feel, may that holy silence be eloquent with the praise of God.

"Lord, send thy life throughout the entire church. Lord, visit thy church, restore sound doctrine, restore holy and earnest living. Take away from professors their apparent love for frivolities, their attempts to meet the world on its own ground, and give back the old love to doctrines of the cross, the doctrines of the Christ of God; and once more may free grace and dying love be the music that shall refresh the church, and make her heart exceeding glad.

"Just now when the earth is waking up to life, Lord, wake up dead hearts, and if there are seeds of grace lying dormant in any soul may they begin to bud, may the bulb down at the heart send forth its golden cup and drink in of the light, the life of God. Oh! save today. 'Thy King in the midst of thee is mighty: he will save'. Our very heart is speaking now much more loudly and sweetly than our lips can speak. Lord, save sinners; great High Priest, have compassion on the ignorant and such as are out of the way. Great Shepherd of the sheep, gather the lambs within thine arm; find out the lost sheep; throw them on thy shoulders and bring them home rejoicing.

"We pray also for the poorest and the down-trodden. The Lord look upon the poor of this world, and make them rich in faith, and comfort them in heart by the Holy Ghost. Let thy light and thy truth go forth to the most distant parts of the earth; 'let the people praise thee; O God, let all the people praise thee,' Give us the times of refreshing. May we have a visit from Christ by the power of his Spirit; and until he come may there be a blessed halcyon of peace and salvation."

Daily Bible Readings - February

The following Bible reading is provided by biblegateway.com for our use.

| | | |
|--------|----|-------------------|
| Sun. | 1 | Leviticus 7-9 |
| Mon. | 2 | Leviticus 10-12 |
| Tues. | 3 | Leviticus 13-15 |
| Wed. | 4 | Leviticus 16-18 |
| Thurs. | 5 | Leviticus 19-21 |
| Fri. | 6 | Leviticus 22-24 |
| Sat. | 7 | Leviticus 25-27 |
| Sun. | 8 | Numbers 1-3 |
| Mon. | 9 | Numbers 4-6 |
| Tues. | 10 | Numbers 7-9 |
| Wed. | 11 | Numbers 10-12 |
| Thurs. | 12 | Numbers 13-15 |
| Fri. | 13 | Numbers 16-18 |
| Sat. | 14 | Numbers 19-21 |
| Sun. | 15 | Numbers 22-24 |
| Mon. | 16 | Numbers 25-27 |
| Tues. | 17 | Numbers 28-30 |
| Wed. | 18 | Numbers 31-33 |
| Thurs. | 19 | Numbers 34-36 |
| Fri. | 20 | Deuteronomy 1-3 |
| Sat. | 21 | Deuteronomy 4-6 |
| Sun. | 22 | Deuteronomy 7-9 |
| Mon. | 23 | Deuteronomy 10-12 |
| Tues. | 24 | Deuteronomy 13-15 |
| Wed. | 25 | Deuteronomy 16-18 |
| Thurs. | 26 | Deuteronomy 19-21 |
| Fri. | 27 | Deuteronomy 22-24 |
| Sat. | 28 | Deuteronomy 25-27 |

Special Offerings

For the month of February will go to scholarships for the Women's Retreat.

Do you have a prayer request?

The Prayer Box is available in the narthex. The Pastoral staff will pray for you.



ATTENTION ALL MEN:
Men's Ministry Monthly Breakfast
Saturday, February 7,
8:30 a.m.
in the Chapel.

If you read God's Word, but do not meditate on it, it's like eating without digesting!

Mark Batterson
 "Draw the Circle"

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

February 2015

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 Communion | 2 7pm Scouts | 3 7pm Al-Anon 7pm C.A.D. 7pm Women's Bible Study | 4 6:30pm Midweek Service 6:30pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal 7pm Scout Leaders Meeting | 5 3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT | 6 | 7 8:30am Men's Breakfast |
| 8 Scout Sunday 12:30 Children's Ministry Lunch | 9 7pm Scouts | 10 7pm Al-Anon 7pm C.A.D. 7pm Al-Anon | 11 6:30pm Midweek Service 6:30pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal | 12 3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT | 13 | 14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> |
| 15 12:30pm Women's Ministry Team Meeting | 16 7pm Scouts  Church Office Closed | 17 7pm Al-Anon 7pm C.A.D. 7pm Women's Bible Study | 18 6:30pm Midweek Service 6:30pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal | 19 3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT | 20 FBC HIGH SCHOOL WINTER FEBRUARY 20 --> | 21 |
| 22 RETREAT -> 22 | 23 7pm Scouts | 24 7pm Al-Anon 7pm C.A.D. 7pm Al-Anon | 25 6:30pm Midweek Service 6:30pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal | 26 3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT | 27 | 28 Fund Raiser Brunch 10am - 1pm |

SUNDAY MORNINGS:

9:30am Bible Studies for Children and Adults
Contemporary Style Worship
11:00am Bible Studies for Adults and All Youth
Classical Style Worship

All Events Are Subject to Change.