



September 2015

From the Pastor

Worship attendance has been falling in churches throughout America. Any good reasons? No. The reasons include: not claiming a religious faith, not believing that the Lord cares about worship (despite Bible quotes saying the Lord loves worship--Jesus attended Himself, you know.) Historically, Americans have always stressed individual faith (and therefore the support of others has been under valued). What Americans have missed is that today evil believes in working together--terrorist organizations are ORGANIZED. Can we stand against evil as individuals? Armed forces don't buy into that. Maybe Americans aren't sure there is evil alive and at work in the world? Really? And yes worshipping the Lord is a strike against evil. Believe it! "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." --Edmund Burke



This month. . .come to worship. . .be in worship.

This is YOUR INVITATION to come and be in worship and welcome everyone to worship. Invite your friends, enemies,

and strangers.

Expect to see people in worship.

Expect to seek the Lord together in worship.

Pray that it happens.

Pray that the Lord makes it happen for YOU.



Update on ... Sally Barrett



"Believing God"

This summer has allowed for more reflection time than usual. Now that my roommates are in the States, I am living by myself for the first time. There was only a month before a Slovene friend of mine moved in but it is clear to me that I am not meant to live alone.

This summer I have been doing a bible study by Beth Moore called "Believing God". I am continually identifying areas in my life that instead of handing them over to God, I try to control them. Many times I know truth intellectually about God but fully believing them is another thing. For example, I know that prayer is a powerful tool that God can use and yet I often doubt its effectiveness.

Instead of coming before the Lord I feel shame for my mistrust. I often feel like a horrible Christian (or worse a horrible missionary). It is sad, but as missionaries, we often put pressure on ourselves to have our acts together and to be "super Christians". None-the-less, it can create pride or a sense of loneliness. It is great to be reminded that I have struggles just like every other Christian.

Seeing these areas of weakness in my life has been sobering. It has allowed me to humbly come before the Lord and seek change. I am becoming more aware that above all else, I want to be transformed. I want to be open about my struggles and able to turn quickly to the Lord. I desire a life that is marked by his grace and molded by his Word. This summer has given me time to recognize this and be reminded of 1 Peter 5:7 "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."

He cares for me and is worthy of trusting. This is a truth that I must cling to and choose to believe. There is no need for me to seek control when God is worthy to carry my burdens.