

INTRODUCTION

Vision 3:10...Catch the Wave is the theme of our capital campaign. With this theme comes many opportunities. We believe we are to retire debt, enhance ministry, and cast vision. In the process of accomplishing all of this, God has something He would like to do for us as individuals. And that is, give us His blessing. Blessing, in the simplest state of its meaning is “a benefit bestowed”. Blessing does not always come monetarily, but sometimes comes in a form that we do not understand or even recognize immediately. What is the benefit God has in store for us during this campaign?

I believe the most important benefit, as if salvation were not enough, is...personal growth. This little book you hold in your hands is intended to aid you on your journey toward the life of blessing He wants to give you, as you follow Him in obedience. I truly believe that, over the next thirty days, God wants to do a work in our lives. Yes, He desires that we are faithful in our giving. Yes, He desires for there to always be growth in our faith. And when these things are present in our lives we can rise to the challenge whenever ministry needs resources or life comes at us faster than we can take it in.

He wants to see us in a constant growth pattern—one that lifts us to new levels in our relationship with Him. During this focused time, we as a congregation will embark upon a journey that I pray will bring about radical transformation in our individual lives, our church's health, and our community, with worldwide impact. At the end of our campaign, the commitments we make to give monetarily must come from a place of overflow, because we have spent time on our knees before our Savior together.

This booklet is intended to be just a starting point for you. Use the thoughts, questions, and prayer guide as a place to begin. I challenge you to get a notebook and write your responses, your thoughts, and your prayers so that at the end of this time you have a visual reminder in black and white of what God is doing in your life.

Going in the same direction over the next month will afford us a rare opportunity as a congregation to be of one mind, one focus, and one voice. As we study His word, spend time in prayer, and grow beyond where we were, out of obedience, the word says the floodgates of heaven will be opened to us! Join me as we “*Catch the Wave*” of God's blessing together.

Ready for a surf!

Crystal Colp

“Your earnest prayer is a shield....so do not fail.”

November 12th:

Read Mark 12:41-44. What is the principle that Jesus is trying to teach His disciples in this scripture? How do you think this relates to giving during this campaign? The challenge before us is that we would *all*—100% of us!—catch the wave of God's blessing together and begin to give out of our wealth and out of our poverty. We must give the Lord what is His and then anticipate the flood of His blessed Spirit among us as we follow in obedience as a unified body of believers. We need to understand that, no matter where we fall within the tax brackets, God still desires a willing heart. The giving that is prompted by this is an outward expression of devotion to Him, and in turn it fans the flames of ministry He desires to do in our small corner of the world, and beyond.

Again, talk with the Lord about your commitment and what the amount will be when the time comes to make that final decision. Ask Him to bless this time of growth in our church, and pray specifically that God would open the floodgates and bless the ministries of the church, expanding the influence it has on individuals, the community, and the world for Jesus Christ.

November 13th:

Read 2 Corinthians 9:11. What does this say will be the result of a rich man giving generously? This Scripture is one more example of the principle we studied yesterday. The only difference was the amount of money each person had to give. Both people were blessed because of their obedience to give. If 100% involvement is the goal, it only takes one person believing that their giving is insignificant or unnecessary to keep this from happening.

Can you imagine what God could do through a church that is giving 100% of what God is asking for, then 100% of the people in that church were all praying for the same things, and 100% of them believed that God can do miraculous things through them if they make themselves available to serve whenever God opens a door to serve? You see, giving from a place of sacrifice is exactly what God the Father did when sending His Son to die for us. And, now the church of today must do the same thing if ministry is to be done on a large scale as a large majority of the world is hurting, lost, and alone.

November 14th:

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7-9. What kind of giver does God desire us to be? Giving out of reluctance or under compulsion is not the way God intends us to give. Over this time of study together, hopefully, you have allowed the Lord into your life so that you are beyond reluctance and compulsion and have moved on into the territory of the cheerful giver! Giving of this kind comes from a heart that is close to the Lord, an ear that is open to His voice, and a willing spirit that desires to give! What is it that God is asking you to do? Spend some time today putting in writing in your journal the main things God has revealed to you during this time of study, points of growth, where He is prompting you to join Him in service, and then the amount you believe He is asking you to step out on faith and give.

I encourage you to continue writing in your journal as you see Him moving in your life. Use this journal as a place to record the effects of the floodgates of His blessing being opened in your life and the life of the church! Be encouraged that God is up to something big and you play a vital role in what He is up to! Have you caught the vision? Now, “*Catch the Wave*” and enjoy the ride!

READING THE WAVE

November 9th:

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7. The basis for all Christian giving is the gift that God gave in giving His one and only Son as a sacrificial offering for our sins. In this scripture Paul is encouraging the believers to “EXCEL” in the grace of giving. This statement seems to suggest we are to go over and above what is considered to be a regular tithe to the church. Look up the word excel in a dictionary and then write down how you think this idea should affect your giving to the church.

Pray that God will speak to you in a specific way about the resources He has placed at your disposal and how you are going to utilize them to contribute toward *Vision 3:10* and where that could take us as a body of believers. Ask the Lord to help you trust Him as you make a commitment this weekend to the campaign!

November 10th:

As God is working on you this week to make a financial commitment, allow him to also grow in you a desire to give. Read 2 Corinthians 8:10-12. What does Paul say will make our gift of giving acceptable? (vs. 12) You see, it really doesn't matter if you have a lot to give, or just a little, what really matters is the *willingness* to give. Paul is trying to get them to understand that giving is joined to, and flows out of, where our devotion is. Over the last three weeks we have spent a lot of time examining our hearts for this specific reason, so that when we decide to give, it is because we want to give! And that desire to give comes naturally from a place of understanding the word, loving Jesus above all else, and realizing that what we have comes from Him in the first place!

Today in your prayer time continue to pray about what God is asking you to commit to give during this campaign. Ask that He specifically grow in you the desire to give. Be sure to spend some time thanking Him for the resources He has given to you so that you can give back! Again, understand that it does not matter how little you have or how much you have; it is all about the willingness of your heart! God can do miraculous things through the heart that desires to follow Him in obedience.

November 11th:

What is the ultimate example of giving? Read John 3:16. What did God give? All giving in the Church is really to be out of a response to what has been given to us. Why did God give? Why do we give? We give to the Church so that ministry can be done, but not just that, ministry must be done excellently because God gave us the first fruits and we must give in accordance to what has been given.

As you pray, ask the Lord to awaken in you a fresh perspective on giving. Spend some time in quiet so that you have an opportunity for God to speak to you. Pray for God to reveal the amount that you should give over the course of this campaign. God gave so that we could have eternal life, but the main reason is because of His love for us. End your prayer time telling the Lord that you love Him, and thank Him for His gift of love that we could never hope to out-give.

There are certain criteria that a surfer looks for when reading a wave in order to ride it: the timing, swell point, break point, and the shape of the wave. This can also relate to the movement of God. He has perfect timing. His movements can be seen to have moments of momentum and then times of “breaking” or dissipating. And, you can see the “shape” of His hand present many times in your life or the lives of others. God moves in mighty ways, but He also moves in mysterious ways, and as His people we must learn to “read” where He is at work and join in what He is doing. But, how do we do that? Over the next few days take time to pray, read, and journal about what God is doing in your life and how you are learning to “Read the Wave” of His movements.

October 20th:

Read 1 Samuel 3: 1-19. Did Samuel recognize the voice he heard as the voice of God? Why did Samuel not recognize God's voice? (vs. 7) What do you think hearing the voice of God has to do with reading the wave of His movements? Do you think that you have a good sense of when God is speaking to you and when it is something else pulling at you?

Today in your prayer time ask the Lord to give you an ear to hear Him when He calls. Also, ask Him for the discernment to know when it is Him and when it is not. Be sure to end your prayer time thanking Him for His presence in your life, in others lives, and the body of believers you are a part of.

October 21st:

Read John 8:47. What does this scripture say about the ability to hear what God is saying or, in other words, the ability to “read the wave” of God? Taking an honest look at your life—who or what would you say that you “belong” to?

Today in your prayer time ask the Lord to reveal to you where your heart is or what you belong to. Take some time and renew your commitment to the Lord making Him first place in your life. Ask Him to give you a renewed sense of belonging to the greatest family that has ever existed, “The Family of God!”

October 22nd:

Read Proverbs 2:1-5. What are we to turn our ear to? How are we to look for this? (vs. 4) What happens when we do this? How do you think this will help you understand or see the movements of God? Why do you think it is so important to recognize the movements of God or to hear His voice when He is speaking to you?

Today in your prayer time spend some time asking the Lord to help you turn a “deaf” ear to the world and its wisdom. Ask Him to open your ears to His wisdom. Notice in this scripture it instructs you to call out for insight, and to cry aloud for understanding...SO, do just that today in your time on your knees before Him.

HAVING THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT

Now, that you have learned the basic principle of “Reading the Wave.” It is time to begin thinking about wading into the water, but first you have to have the proper equipment. Proper equipment is a must to prevent you from injury, lost equipment, and it is also necessary to enhance the enjoyment of the sport. In surfing the proper equipment in general terms consists of: a surfboard, a wet suit, and a leash for the board so that you do not lose it! When surfing waters of a spiritual nature you also need the proper equipment in order to be a truly successful “surfer”! Over the next few days we are going to take a very brief look at the equipment we must have in order to stand firm, and “read the wave” of God’s movements without injury or losing faith in the world we are trying to reach for Jesus Christ! This equipment can also enhance our relationship with our Savior taking it to another level as we are more prone to step out on faith when we feel protected and safe from harm.

October 23rd:

Read Ephesians 6:13-17. What are the pieces of equipment you need? What is your belt? Who or What is the truth? (*John 14:6*) What is your breastplate? What is the definition of righteousness? What does it guard? (*Proverbs 4:23*) Do you feel like these pieces of equipment are in place in your life?

Today, as you pray ask the Lord to deal with you specifically in the area of guarding your heart. Are there areas in your life where you allow things in that should not be there... visiting inappropriate web sites, friends that tend to influence you in a negative way, reading material that is not becoming of a man or woman of God, etc... Guarding your heart is very important if you desire to hear from the Lord. Allow this time of prayer to be a time when God can clean every dark corner of your life. Let Him in. Write down areas that He is dealing with you and then make a commitment to allow Him to help you remove those things from your life as you equip yourself to be a “SOLD OUT SURFER” for Jesus!

October 24th:

Refer back to the scripture you read yesterday. What is your helmet? (*1 Thessalonians 5:8b-9*) In biblical times the helmet was a symbol of victory. What victory did Jesus “win” so that you could have the hope you now have in salvation? How does this hope help you in your everyday life?

What is your shield? Again, in biblical times soldiers would soak their shields, which were traditionally made of leather or animal skins, in water. When flaming arrows were shot at them, the shields would not only protect them from the arrow itself, but it would also extinguish the flame. According to Ephesians 6:16, who is shooting arrows at you? What do you think this looks like in your everyday life? Do you think you are “saturated” in the waters of God’s spirit, so that you are protected from these flaming arrows? What does it mean to you to be “saturated” in His spirit?

Today as you pray, thank the Lord for the hope you have in salvation through Jesus! If you have not accepted Him as your Savior turn to the back of this booklet and follow the instruction listed for you there to do that and add this piece of armor to your collection today! Ask Him to “SATURATE” you in His spirit giving you the ability to extinguish the flaming arrows; the world will throw at you everyday, in the name of Jesus Christ!

November 8th:

Read Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-38. How do you think you would have reacted to this news? What did Joseph do after he awoke from the dream? After the initial shock of being told she is going to have a baby even though she is a virgin, what did Mary say to the angel? (*vs.38*) How do you think you would have reacted to this news? This news certainly “made waves” in the lives of Joseph and Mary but, Jesus, the greatest “wave maker” of them all, was the product of this miraculous work in their lives! I wonder where God is calling you to “make some waves.”

Take the opportunity in your prayer time to respond to God the way Joseph and Mary did. Make a commitment to the Lord today that you will be ready, willing, and able with His help to be a part of the “impossible”—remembering that “nothing is impossible with God!” With God in the equation, the impossible becomes the miraculous! And you can be a miraculous “Wave Maker” with the Power of the Almighty God at your disposal!

CATCHING THE WAVE

When a surfer finally commits to a wave they must determine, based on the size of the wave, if they “catch” the wave at an angle or straight on. If the wave is larger, the surfer will catch it at an angle to prevent from dropping off the front of the wave at too great a pitch. Catching a large wave straight on can be dangerous because, if you lose control, you could fall several feet to the wall of water below you. Surfing at an angle also allows you to ride inside the tube of water as it folds over on itself!

Malachi 3:10 says: *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”*

Over the last several years we have seen what can happen when a floodgate cannot contain the water that is bearing down on it. But, what would happen if the floodgates of heaven were opened and blessings flowed like a tidal wave? Remembering that blessing does not necessarily mean monetary blessings, but blessings of satisfaction and happiness that comes from living a life of love and obedience. “Catching the Wave” of God’s blessing as the floodgates are opened is our next step, but it is up to you to determine whether the wave is so large we have to approach at an angle or whether it will be a controlled set of waves that renders the flow “wave-less” and therefore the surfers “ride-less.” Over the next few days you will spend time in the Word, study, and prayer, asking God to reveal to you what your part is in *Vision 3:10*.

November 3rd.

Read Exodus 3 & 4; 12:31-42. Summarize the story of the life of Moses, and what God did through him. What does the life of Moses say to you about where you are in allowing God to minister through you?

Spend time in prayer today seeking His face and asking Him to help you believe in the miraculous work He desires to do through you.

November 4th.

Recalling what you read yesterday about Moses, what do you think made him believe that he was incapable of doing what God was calling him to do? Many scholars believe that Moses had a speech impediment that made him feel as if he were not an effective communicator. Do you have a physical limitation or other issue that keeps you from serving? Do you think God is big enough to use anyone He desires to use, no matter what the limitation?

In your prayer time today, surrender every part of yourself to God and allow him to use you despite how limited you feel, so that He gets the glory!

November 5th.

Read Joshua 2 & 5:13-6:27. Summarize what God did through Rahab. Do you think that she ever had doubts about what she had gotten herself into?

Spend time in prayer today asking God to remove any doubts or reservations you might have about your usefulness in the kingdom of God.

November 6th.

We read yesterday about Rahab. She obviously had a sordid past. She did not let that get in the way of being used by God. Is there sin in your past that you allow to color your future? If so, what is it?

Today as you pray, spend focused time asking the Lord's forgiveness if you have never done that. If you have already done that but still struggle with forgiving yourself, ask the Lord to help you find a way to forgive yourself and move on. Also, ask Him to help you find your self-esteem in Him and the new creation you are in Jesus!

November 7th.

Read Judges 6 & 7. Why did Gideon doubt that God could use his "clan" to defeat the Midianites? How did the Lord reply to Gideon's concern?

Today in your prayer time search your heart and "get real" with God about the area in your life where you feel weak, claim the promise that God gave to Gideon that day...God says: *"I will be with you, and you will be able to overcome _____ (fill in this blank with whatever it is that you feel too weak to do.). We will do it together!"*

October 25th.

Refer again back to Ephesians 6:13-17. What is our sword? (*Hebrews 4:12*) Why is it important that we have knowledge of the word of God? What are our feet to be fitted with? What does this idea of readiness mean to you? Why do you think it is important to always be sitting on "Go" when God speaks?

Today as you pray, ask God to give you a desire to be in His word on a daily basis. Pray that your eyes will be opened to where He is at work, and your attitude will be one of readiness when the opportunities arise to give of your time, your talents, or your resources. Thank Him for His word, and the freedom you have to serve Him!

RIDING THE WAVES

Now that you have the proper equipment it is time to actually "ride the waves". You have put on your equipment, learned to read the waves, now you need to "get into position!" When surfers paddle out to get into position, they place themselves beyond the "break zone" or the area where the waves are breaking. Then they will sit and balance on their surfboards looking out to sea. They will look for lumps or rises in the water where the waves are beginning to form. When the wave approaches them, they will turn and look toward shore and watch the wave as it passes and where it breaks. When they have "read the waves" they will then look for a reference point on shore to line themselves up with so that they will know exactly where the prime spot to "ride the wave" will be at all times!

When God is at work, sometimes we can't see it because we are simply not in the right place. Over the next few days we are going to take a look at what it will take to get in the "proper position" to see God at work and what He will do through us once we get there!

October 27th.

Read Psalm 18:30-36. Where is the best place for you to be as you "surf" through this life? Within this scripture there is not only instruction for where to be, but also how He keeps you there. What are the instructions given in these verses of scripture and the plan He has for keeping you steadfast on the right path?

Today as you pray, ask the Lord to reveal where you are in life and whether or not you are in the place He desires you to be in. As you and the Lord examine your life ask Him give you wisdom so that you can discern when you are off track or have lost sight of the reference point you have in Jesus!

October 28th.

Read Proverbs 4:25-27. What do you think it means to "fix" your gaze on something? What about making level paths for yourself—what does that mean to you? Both of these questions can be answered very simply by the contents of verse 27...do not swerve to the right

or left or allow your gaze to go anywhere but upon the Lord, and keep your foot from evil. In order to have level paths, you have to remove any debris or obstacles that are in the way or might cause you to get off the path. If your focus is off when driving, you would find yourself swerving or not as aware of your surroundings as you should be. Just as the surfer has a reference point, we, too, have a reference point in Jesus! Is your gaze “fixed” on Jesus?

Today as you pray, ask the Lord as you did yesterday to give you a clear vision of Him and where He is at work. Is there something He is trying to tell you? Spend some time as you pray asking Him to begin to place in you direction from Him, as you fix your gaze on Him.

October 29th:

Read the text again from Proverbs 4:25-27 then read this quote and write down your thoughts and how this applies to your life and how God is speaking to you.

“It is easy to find out whether our lives are focused, and if so, where the focus lies. Where do our thoughts settle when consciousness comes back in the morning? Where do they swing back when the pressure is off during the day? Dare to have it out with God...and ask Him to show you whether or not all is focused on Christ and His glory.”—Lilias Trotter

Spend some honest time in prayer with God about where your focus is. Open yourself up to the idea that God might need to do something NEW in you, through you, and with you!

“For He is worthy to have all there is to be had in the heart that He has died to win.”—Lilias Trotter

October 30th:

Read Ephesians 4:7-16. “Riding a wave” takes work. There is a lot of paddling involved in surfing. Surfing takes a lot of body strength. Just as it is with every good thing, there is usually work that is involved in getting there. God has work for us to do. According to our text what are some of the jobs that we are being prepared to do? What happens to us as believers when these jobs are done? (Vv.12-13) As a surfer matures and gains experience, they are less likely to be tossed off track by an imperfect wave or by an improper approach to a wave. What happens when we gain “fullness in Christ?” (vs. 14)

Today as you spend time in prayer, ask that God would begin to open your eyes, ears, mind, heart, and spirit to what He is preparing you for and where the Body of Christ is specifically needed in our community and our world.

October 31st:

Yesterday you began to pray about specific areas where ministry is needed. Spend some time today as you are still before the Lord to think in practical terms. Ask yourself...if we are to do ministry to the extent that the Lord wants us to do ministry, what are some things that would be needed to see that happen? Again, think in practical terms. Make a list as you think about where God was leading you yesterday in your quiet time about the specific needs in our community and our world. Now, ask yourself...What can I do to help meet these practical needs of ministry? Read James 2:26. What does this scripture say our faith is without works?

Spend your prayer time today asking that God would give you wisdom and allow you to understand what it is that He desires of you. Ministry takes resources, and the resources that ministries in your body of believers depend upon come from you. Without resources ministry would not happen. What resources do you have that God is asking you to tap into in order for ministry to happen inside and outside the walls of your church? Pray that you would be open to His spirit leading you to give.

November 1st:

Before a surfer rides the wave they will study it as it passes, watching closely where it breaks so that they can catch the wave at the optimum time. Timing is everything! Read Hosea 10:12. What does this scripture say it is time to do? What are some of the ways that we seek the Lord? Do you think we have a responsibility to share our faith with others? If so, write down some practical ways that we can share the love of Christ with the world...dream a little! If not, explain. Do you think God can use you to help someone else that is seeking?

Today as you spend time in prayer, pray for the leaders of your church as they try to discern how best to reach others with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ask the Lord to open up opportunities for you to help those that are seeking a relationship with Jesus! Pray that the Lord would give you a vision beyond just what is already breaking on the shore, but to turn you around and give you a vision of what is on the horizon as you begin to take steps in your own walk toward “Riding the Wave!!!”

MAKING WAVES

Surfers sometimes wait years between surf sessions that they would say were great experiences. But, in January of 2008 four surfers had the surf session of a lifetime. Just off the Coast of California at the Cortes Bank these four men rode waves they estimated to be 80-100 feet high. What made these waves? Two huge storms—one following another—produced these waves and provided several hours of calm winds between the two to allow the excursion to the location where the surfing took place. The waves that were present that day off the coast were incredible in size, and because they were unparalleled by any other experience the surfers had ever had, they were life changing.

God made the waves that day at Cortes Bank and He allows us to make waves of our own in the lives of other people. Over the next few days you will spend time reading about the lives of people who defied the odds and also made waves that were life changing in nature! As you study this week, spend time connecting the dots between the examples of these lives and what God desires to do through you.