

Awakening

As I sit in the no-speaking dining room at the Abbey of Gethsemani next to the elevator, other attendees are arriving. I love to arrive early to start my time with God, so I had already settled in.

I sit here quietly, and I start hearing sounds of footsteps and luggage wheels on the tile floors leading up to the elevator. And I wonder what it is that God has in store for them here this weekend. I know for me my time has been spent in many different ways when I would come. The very first time I came to the



Rhonda Gould
Coaching and Consulting

Abbey was a season of deep grief and pain. I spent most of that weekend in tears while pouring it all out to God. I had never experienced a place like the Abbey. One of solemn quietness, solely devoted to drawing closer to the Father that loves me so much. I had heard of His love; I had experienced His love, but I didn't really know His love on a deep and personal basis. During that particular weekend, there were many moments, but the most loving one was in the middle of the woods, where there was a huge fallen tree lying on the ground. I took a while and just lay flat on my back on that huge tree trunk. Not worrying about what bugs may be crawling around me or who may see or hear me. Just allowing the tears to flow down my cheeks at the same pace as the fall-colored leaves floated to the

ground. I felt His presence as I lay in His creation. I felt His presence as I poured out to Him and He poured into me.

Since then, I have gone many times. If I couldn't get into the Abbey, I would find other places to go. This is a respite for me. Throughout these last years of learning how to still myself with Him, I am finding that it's easier to still myself without the need to take a full weekend away. I can do it in a moment of unrest or in a time of great joy. I can do it if I have five minutes or five hours. My point is that He has and still is teaching me to draw peace and calmness with Him wherever I am! I still, and will forever, take long, intentional time away with Him because that's when He does His best work in me. And boy did I need it this weekend. Soaking up,

listening, and writing whatever it is He puts on my heart.

So, I sit and listen to each of those footsteps and wheels roll, and I know that God has something for them here.

I pray that whatever drew them to this sacred place will also draw them closer to God. A Father that already knows their most intimate details and is just waiting for them to share it with Him.

Where is your sacred place? Are you intentional with your time to access that deepness with Him? I pray you are.

Here are a few scriptures: Ps 91:1-2; Matt 6:5-15; Mark 1:35

What awakening is God, our Father, waiting to show you when you ask?

Rhonda @ rhondagouldonline.com

The river ran backwards

John 7: 37-38 “ In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”

The morning was cool but pleasant. I walked out onto the pier under the Brooklyn Bridge with my early morning coffee. The New York skyline cast shadows over the city; I felt totally alone and susceptible. We were working with a Christian disaster relief group providing meals for first responders and victims.

The scene of that September morning in 2001 included smoke from the site of the collapsed World Trade Center towers. It had been five days since the terrorist attack on America.

The smoke continued to rise off the rubble, and the thoughts of the lives lost troubled my soul. The dead are dead, but their families were in extreme grief. Not knowing for sure what has happened to a loved one is horrible, but to consider the circumstances of their death sets the heart and mind beyond its normal limits.



Van Yandell

Sea gulls floated by as if being uplifted by an unseen force emanating off the water of the East River. Not a river, it bears the name. Actually, it is a saltwater tidal estuary or strait connecting the Atlantic Ocean in two places.

Finally, my eyes cast down toward the water and the thought besieged my mind, “The river was running the other direction yesterday! Am I going mad? What’s happening?”

In a few seconds, the realization came forth: the tide was going out, whereas yesterday it was coming in. Being from western Kentucky, my ability to comprehend the tides was limited and came only from textbooks.

A river running backwards happened on February 7, 1812. When the New Madrid fault slipped on that date, the Mississippi River ran backwards for several hours, forming Reelfoot Lake in northwest Tennessee. That quake is estimated to have been as high as 8.2 on the Richter scale.

Water in volumes too large to accurately determine exerts tremendous force. The energy produced by tides exceeds all the energy produced by mankind every second of every day. To harness that energy is another matter.

Tidal energy is currently

being used in a few locations around the world, most notably at the Sihwa Lake Tidal Power Station in South Korea and La Rance, France, which is the oldest large-scale tidal power station still in operation.

The awareness of tidal potential as a renewable and economical source of energy has long existed, but the initial cost of tidal power plants is mostly prohibitive. Perhaps in the future, the tides will be utilized to decrease the use of fossil fuels, which some believe is a major factor in climate change.

Life on earth could not exist without water. Genesis 1: 2 tells us, “The spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” We know that water is one of the essential components for God’s creation process.

With the combining of carbon-based matter (Genesis 1: 1), water (Genesis 1: 2), and light (Genesis 1: 3), the process of photosynthesis happens. With that, chlorophyll is produced, of which a by-product is oxygen.

We humans inhale oxygen to be distributed by our lungs into our blood, which in turn feeds the thirty trillion cells in our bodies. On the return trip through our veins, the residue left (carbon dioxide) is exhaled into the atmosphere, which provides for plants the fuel to produce more chlorophyll,

thus more oxygen.

God was the first recycler, and it appears He thought of everything. I suppose that’s why He’s God.

Considering the power of moving water and that water is essential for photosynthesis and human survival, we can understand why Jesus emphasized water in His teachings.

John 4: 13 “Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

At times it seems as if the church, like the East River, is running backwards. The church as Jesus intended it to be has in many cases lost its focus. Matthew 16: 18 “That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

That statement by Jesus indicates one and only one church. His church has been severely fragmented and divided by denominationalism, which is a result of individual thinking. Religionists have taken it upon themselves to distort the words of our Savior/Creator.

We cannot rewrite the scriptures and expect it to

go unnoticed. Revelation 22: 18b-19a “If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life.”

The perversion of the originally intended church goes far beyond the corruption of the scriptures. Churches are not to be social clubs or entertainment centers. Speakers are not to preach what has lately been dubbed as “feel-good” preaching.

Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross for the remission of the sins of all mankind was nothing to take lightly and celebrate as the winning of a ball game. Jesus’ death and resurrection changed the history of the world as no other event ever!

We often wonder why the church is in decline in America. Perhaps these are a part of the reasons. We must preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and adhere to His teachings and not let this river run backwards.

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist, and commissioned missionary. His email: vmy2121@outlook.com

Boyle County Church Directory

<u>ASSEMBLY OF GOD</u> CORNERSTONE ASSEMBLY OF GOD 2035 Old Lexington Rd. 236-9058 <u>BAPTIST</u> ALUM SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH 875 Alum Springs Crosspike Rd. Pastor Zak Lawson 859-329-1153 ASHLAND DANVILLE 1570 Danville By-Pass 236-2276 BLUEGRASS PIKE BAPTIST 1400 Bluegrass Pike Pastor: Travis Alltop CALVARY BAPTIST 214 Lincoln Ave. 236-5350 DOCTOR'S FORK BAPTIST 14331 Lebanon Rd. Perryville, 332-2345 FIRST BAPTIST 200 W. Walnut St. 236-4615 FIRST BAPTIST 310 W. 1st Street Perryville, 349-9000 GETHSEMANE BAPTIST 123 Ouisenberry Ave. 236-2581 HEDGEVILLE BAPTIST 4700 Lancaster Rd. 236-0662 IMMANUEL BAPTIST 1280 Faulkner Lane 236-5073 JUNCTION CITY FIRST BAPTIST 3860 US Hwy 127 S. Junction City, 854-3253 LEXINGTON AVENUE BAPTIST 339 W. Lexington Ave. 236-3565 MITCHELLSBURG BAPTIST 4050 Mitchellsburg Rd. 332-7911 MT. FREEMAN BAPTIST	White Oak Rd. Junction City, 854-3513 NEW HORIZONS MISSIONARY BAPTIST 229 Fox Run Trod 236-4887 NORTH ROLLING FORK BAPTIST 19601 Forkland Rd. Gravel Switch PARKSVILLE BAPTIST 6610 Alum Springs Rd. 238-7004 PERRYVILLE BAPTIST 202 S. Bragg St. Perryville, 332-8721 PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH 1589 Logan Rd. Gravel Switch 859-583-3024 Brother Johnny Morgan, pastor PLEASANT RUN BAPTIST 10560 Forkland Rd. Parksville, 854-3557 SALT RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH 5125 Perryville Rd. Danville, 936-7297 SOUTHERN HEIGHTS 550 Roy Arnold Blvd. 859-324-3950 Pastor: Brandon Wilson STONEY BAPTIST 51 Stony Point Rd. 236-3000 UNITY BAPTIST 1300 Hustonville Rd. 238-0009 WATTS CHAPEL BAPTIST 1462 Ky. Hwy. 2750 Crab Orchard 606-879-8183 Pastor: Dan Gutenson WILLOW GROVE BAPTIST 4306 Stanford Rd. 236-4956 <u>CATHOLIC</u> ST. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC 117 W. Main St. 236-2111	<u>CHRISTIAN</u> FIRST CHRISTIAN 596 W. Shelby St. Junction City, 854-6646 INDIAN HILLS CHRISTIAN 516 Grabruck St. 236-7575 RISING SON CHRISTIAN 467 Whirlaway Dr. Danville, 239-8966 SECOND STREET CHRISTIAN S. 2nd St. & Green St. 236-6564 SOUTHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH 101 Ben Ali Dr. #2 Danville, KY 40422 <u>CHURCH OF CHRIST</u> CHURCH OF CHRIST 385 E. Lexington Ave. 236-4204 SYCAMORE CHURCH OF CHRIST 16163 Forkland Rd. Gravel Switch 859-332-2030 CHURCH OF CHRIST 300 Russell St. Junction City, 859-324-0978 WEST END CHURCH OF CHRIST 3040 Perryville Rd. 236-9575 HARRODSBURG CHURCH OF CHRIST 1369 US 127 Bypass Harrodsburg, KY 40330 734-7166 <u>CHURCH OF GOD</u> ALUM SPRINGS FIRST CHURCH OF GOD 3758 Alum Springs Rd. 236-4859 CHURCH OF GOD OF AMERICA 326 W. Main St. 236-2194 CORNERSTONE ASSEMBLY OF GOD 2035 Old Lexington Rd. 236-9058	DANVILLE CHURCH OF GOD 516 S. 4th St. 236-4018 FIRST CHURCH OF GOD 3220 Harrodsburg Rd. 236-4700 PERRYVILLE CHURCH OF GOD 209 Lyons Avenue Perryville, KY 40468 324-9051 WORLDSTOWN CHURCH OF GOD 640 Worldstown Rd. Junction City 239-9431 <u>DISCIPLES OF CHRIST</u> FIRST CHRISTIAN 555 E. Lexington Ave. 236-4006 PERRYVILLE FIRST CHRISTIAN 205 E. 3rd St. Perryville, 613-2575 <u>EPISCOPAL</u> TRINITY EPISCOPAL 320 W. Main St. 236-3374 <u>HOLINESS</u> VISION CHURCH OF HOLINESS 704 Holiday Dr. 324-6293 <u>JEHOVAH'S WITNESS</u> DANVILLE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES 104 Breathitt Ave. 854-5000 <u>LUTHERAN</u> OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN 285 Hill-N-Dale 859-379-9292 <u>METHODIST</u> CENTENARY METHODIST	1441 Perryville Rd. 236-4800 JUNCTION CITY UNITED METHODIST 69 School St. 854-3841 MITCHELLSBURG UNITED METHODIST 11470 Lebanon Rd. Parksville 859-516-3978 ST. JAMES AME 124 E. Walnut St. 236-3241 3RD STREET METHODIST CHURCH 3rd and Walnut Streets Danville, 859-552-6563 DANVILLE UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY 120 N 3rd St. Danville, 859-334-0093 <u>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST</u> CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LDS 120 Waterworks Rd. 236-8354 <u>PENTECOSTAL</u> FAITH TEMPLE PENTECOSTAL 205 Otter St. 236-3454 HERRINGTON LAKE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH 254 Hughley Lane Harrodsburg, 859-333-0922 <u>PRESBYTERIAN</u> GRACE PCA 180 Bold Venture 236-9137 DANVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 500 W. Main St. 236-6692 <u>SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST</u> DANVILLE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST	2630 Perryville Rd. 239-8004 <u>WESLEYAN</u> JUNCTION CITY WESLEYAN 415 White Oak Rd. Junction City, 238-7851 <u>OTHER</u> CENTERPOINT CHURCH 116 N. 3rd St. Danville, KY 40422 Suite #4 on the 3rd floor 859-326-7117 CELEBRATION CHURCH 845 E. Main St. 859-319-6135 CENTERPOINT CHURCH 195 Grafton St. Junction City 859-319-3090 FAITH CHURCH 4080 South Danville By-Pass 859-324-6342 FAITH FELLOWSHIP 255 Jane Trail 236-1268 GOD'S HOMETOWN CHURCH 4349 Hustonville Road Donald Lear, Pastor 859-854-9293 GRACE AND FAITH CHURCH 330 S. Fourth St. (use side entrance) 329-1940 Pastor: Paul Stratton GUIDING LIGHT TABERNACLE 711 East Dr. 239-9372 HOPE FULL GOSPEL CHURCH 888 Duncan Hill Danville NEW LIFE MINISTRIES 201 High Tower Rd. 236-3833 PERRYVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH 206 E. 2nd St. Perryville, 332-2738 SALVATION ARMY 519 S. 4th St. 236-4473
--	---	---	--	--	--