

JANUARY 2010

The *Communicator*

*W*hat was I thinking?

Pastor: Don Forrester

I went to bed anticipating sleet the following morning. The weatherman had been fairly certain of the forecast the evening before. Upon awakening, a quick view of the morning news via email reflected that the sleet had missed Austin.

Immediately I was in a better mood. What a relief. I didn't want to drive in those conditions. Stopping to get my coat as I made my way out the door, I noticed the leather jacket I had purchased almost a year ago hanging in the closet. It was still covered by the plastic garment bag provided by the store. It had never been worn. I had the passing thought, no sleet, I'll wear it today.

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From the Pastor

What was I thinking? By the time I got to the office, the drizzle had begun to fall. I wore the new jacket into the building and subsequently received several compliments that it was really a nice coat. It is a nice coat. Fortunately I got it on sale. I would never have paid full retail price.

By noon the drizzle had turned to rain. . It looked cold outside. Somehow from the resources of my memory, I recalled ruining a leather sports coat once when it got wet. I did a quick Google search for care of a lamb leather coat. AV-IOD WEARING IN WET WEATHER was clearly communicated in the instructions.

Consequently, when I left the building for lunch, I opted to leave my jacket behind. I didn't want it to get wet. It was cold outside! I walked quickly from my car into the restaurant. At the end of the day it was still raining, I put the jacket in a plastic bag and made a rush for the car. It was still cold. What was I thinking? The coat I had worn did me absolutely no good.

What was I thinking? Later as I reflected on the day, it occurred to me that far too often we handle our faith relationship with the Lord much in the same way as I handled the possession of a new jacket. I purchased the jacket last January. Almost a year later it remained hanging in the coat closet without having ever being worn.

We talk about our faith relationship with the Lord. We profess that the relationship holds a place of prominence and importance in our lives. Yet, how often do we negotiate the demands of living as though the transformation we ex-

perience through life in Christ is non-existent. We opt to leave that dimension of who we are as a child of God dormant or hanging in the closet unworn and untried.

For example, how often in our daily pilgrimage do we choose to glorify God by choosing to "turn the other cheek" or "go the second mile" with someone? Aren't we more accustomed to negotiating relationship issues by the world's standards rather than life in Christ?

How often does the acquisition and storage of "earthly treasures" seem to take precedence over His ability to turn our focus on that which is eternal and lasting?

I am almost hesitant to mention His cautionary words concerning the need to eliminate worry from our lives. Thinking we know what is best, too often we self-destructively ignore His suggestion to "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" We miss the critically important approach to life that has something to do with "Seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you."

Faith doesn't do a lot of good if we opt never to exercise it. Perhaps a resolution worth making for 2010 is to take our faith out of the closet, try it on, get comfortable with it and let it provide the warm and security for every need in our lives. Doesn't God always meet each of us at the point of need?

Unlike my lamb leather jacket that cannot be worn in wet weather, the abiding presence of

the indwelling Spirit of Christ can be and must be worn in every set of circumstance and every opportunity for service.

- Paul wrote, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength."
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 - "But He said to me, 'My grace is enough for you. When you are weak, My power is made perfect in you.' So I am very happy to brag about my weaknesses. Then Christ's power can live in me."
- Ephesians 3:16 - "...that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man."
- Colossians 1:11 - "... strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience."

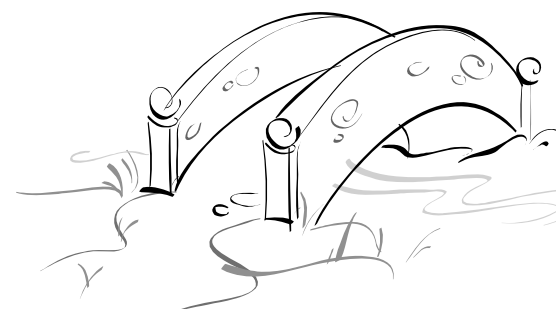
To live otherwise, should prompt us to ask "What was I thinking." It's time to take the garment of Faith out of the closet. "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Happy New Year

Don 



PASTOR: Don Forrester



In Our Community

SATURDAY- JANUARY 27-30

Hays County Livestock Show & Auction

in San Marcos.

THURSDAY - JANUARY 28

Texas State presents Ask the Doctor Forum

Community Awareness Event on Thursday, January 28, 2010, from 7:00-8:30Pm at Dripping Springs City Hall, 511 Mercer Street. Join your community and a panel of health professionals who will be sharing life saving information about cancer. You won't want to miss this phenomenal opportunity to learn about: Common cancers that affect Men and Women; Cancer Risk Factors; Early Detection of Cancer; & Cancer Prevention. This

FREE event is a chance to find out how you can take care of yourself and your loved ones. For more information, contact Karen Candelas, American Cancer Society 512.919.1886.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

IS CRIME ON THE INCREASE IN HAYS COUNTY?

Isn't it time to get the facts? Participate in the Dripping Springs Community Library's Thursday Chat on January 28, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. Find out what is really happening in your schools, neighborhood and in the places where your teens shop from a reliable expert, Sergeant Mike Wood of Hays County Sheriff's Office. Sgt. Wood, a long-time Hays County resident, is the supervisor of the Hays County School Officers and coordinator of the Hays County Gang Awareness Team.

HENLY BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Fellowship Coffee

9:30 am

Sunday School for All Ages

10:00 am

Sunday Worship

11:00 am

1st Sunday Sandwich Social

1st Sunday after Worship

Church Business Meeting

2nd Sunday · Noon

Awana

Tuesdays · 6 to 7 pm

JOY Club

(Just Older Youth)

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