

## Pastor Ray's Ramblings:



We all have places in our imaginations from childhood that need a visual confirmation to confirm their actual existence to us. As a child I would go page page by page through the “World Book Encyclopedia” and allow my mind to drift to the places the pictures portrayed. I had a hard time believing that place such as New York City or Yosemite actually existed. I was a child on the wind and snow blown Canadian prairie in a place unknown to most of the world except for the occasional great hockey player to come from there. To say people there struggled for an identity of significance would be accurate. So when I saw with my own eyes in my travels places like Los Angeles and New York City and wonders like the Alps for the first time it was a thrill beyond articulation of words alone. Seeing places with my own eyes confirmed their reality and grew my world view substantially. I have been blessed to see much of North America and parts of Europe with my great traveling and life mate Sandy. My, this world is a vast place. Every time I hear alarmists claim we are running out of space for humans to live and grow things I have a private and cynical laugh inside. Between us, OK?

As you know Sandy and I were recently enabled to join a guided tour of Israel. Over the years, whenever I heard others share that they had been there or were going there, I could only visualize through imagination what it must be like. These imaginations were filed in my brain from books, magazines, videos and of course the reading of Holy Scripture. I can honestly report that

no other place I had dreamed of seeing with my own eyes of turned out to provide so many surprises.

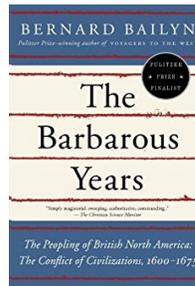
The land of Israel, its terrain, its dimensions, the variety of topography, its landscapes, vegetation, etc, all presented themselves to me visually and experientially like nowhere else I have ever been. Thank you to those of you supported this spiritual exploration with prayer, finances, and approval. A pastor friend of mine asked while we were there: “Is there anything that actually spiritually happens to you when you are there?” He had been of the superstitious inclination that there is something magical about the place itself that affects people as they physically touch the ground, water, air. My response to him is the best I can come up with at this point: “There is of course nothing magical about the air you breathe or the ground you walk on, no matter who has touched it before. One does not get a “dose” of anything just by being there. However, when one contemplates, visualizes, reads Scriptural events in situations and intentionally seeks understanding of what events occurred there, something very special happens within ones heart and soul. The Holy Spirit enables events, teachings, experiences to come alive within more than they ever had before.” Just as one can see countless pictures of the Grand Canyon before an actual visit, it’s not like being there. You know what I mean.

I hope to share much of our experience with you as we continue ministry here. In June and July, in part due to the AC available downstairs, we will conduct worship there. I hope to have many visuals to help you imagine and experience Scripture again.

Have a blessed month. Pastor Ray

## Book Circle:

On Tuesday, May 15 at 10:00 a.m. Book Circle will be at Trillium Springs. Nancy Johnson will be the hostess. Jill Sondeen will be doing the book review "The Barbarous Years" by Bernard Bailyn.



## Graduation Sunday:

Please join us on Sunday, May 27 as we celebrate the graduation of Dylan White son of Angela & Rob Pullman. Following worship we will have a cake & punch reception for Dylan.



## Our Church Family:

On Wednesday, April 18 Ken Hall, passed away. He died peacefully with his daughters holding his hands. A celebration of Life service is scheduled for June 23 at 11:00 a.m. and will be a dual service for both Ken and Lynn Hall.



## May Birthdays

- 2 Kendra Pfeiffer  
Karen Zick
- 3 Gail Cooper
- 4 Jeannie Caris
- 5 Bill Sherman
- 8 Sophie Sweet
- 11 Michelle Sweet
- 13 Siria Pinnick  
Craig Zeerip
- 14 Linda White
- 15 Rick St. Peter
- 19 Jack Tittle
- 23 Lynn Brookhouse  
Brian Stroschin
- 24 Ted Clark
- 26 Duane VanDuzen
- 29 Bill Fries, Jr.
- 30 Clair Shively



## May Anniversaries

- 3 John & Gail Cooper
- 25 Brad & Stacey Church

