



Dear Friends,

What a great week we had in Chapel this week! I hope that you are able to find time to really dwell on what Pastor Brooks spoke this morning, and as we continue through this month's Live Dead Challenge, let's believe together that God is in the business of refining our hearts and turning us to Him!

Next Week in Chapel

Monday, Dr. Castleberry will be taking us through John 14:1-31. **Wednesday**, will be a Life Group Leaders only chapel, I encourage you to take this extra time to refresh, and spend some time in the Word. **Friday**, we welcome Pastor Bryan Rees, a gifted communicator and lead pastor of New Grace Church in Bellevue who will be bringing a message entitled, "Found People, Find People."

Live Dead Challenge

We want to hear what the Lord is doing in your life through Live Dead! Share your stories at livedeadnu.blogspot.com or by visiting NU Missions on Facebook. If you still need to purchase your Live Dead Journal, stop by the Campus Ministries Office or the NU Bookstore to pick yours up.

Embargo Benefit Concert| February 7th

Embargo will be hosting a benefit concert featuring Capture the Light, Charley Laas, Kevin Sankey, and more on February 7th in the Chapel! Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased in the Campus Ministries Office or at the door.

Pursuit | Mondays at 9PM

This Monday at 9PM we have an all-worship Pursuit with the team from Mars Hill Church.

Tell Your Story

I hear so many incredible stories from people and many of them need to be told. Will you be willing to tell yours? Please send it to me so I can share it with our community. At the end of this email there is a great story. Please let it encourage you!!

Revival Prayer | Thursdays at 9PM

For the month of February, Revival Prayer will be World Intercessory Prayer! This is a great opportunity to join together and pray for the Nations as we continue with the Live Dead Challenge. Also, don't forget that we have prayer rooms available for the whole month of February; prayer cards with locations and times are available in the Campus Ministries Office.

Scripture Focus

"He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time."

—2 Timothy 1:9

Offering

This week we raised \$429.52! We have \$4570.48 left to raise towards our goal and ten more opportunities to give!

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P. Phil Diddy | Embargo | Revival Prayer | NUMissions

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Dear Pastor Phil,

My name is Ben Howard and when I saw the request for testimonies on the most recent "A look ahead" email I felt compelled to send you mine. I don't know why but I hope that it can be used to help in some way. Here it goes.

I grew up in a "Christian" home. I put this in quotes because we went to church on Sundays, were involved in the church in different ways, but as a family never really had a relationship with God other than the Sunday fix. However I had a wonderful family. A father who did his best to teach me right and wrong and help me to grow as a man, and a mother who was always there for me through anything. she never judged to the best of her abilities and always listened when I needed to talk, and a little brother who I love now but we were very much brothers then. This perfect family lasted until I was nine. then one night a police officer showed up at my door asking for my father. he went with them in confusion. we later discovered that he had had an affair in the office with a girl who was underage and willingly lied about it to my father. now my parents had been having a hard time in their marriage but this was a shock to the entire family. After a month in court my dad was sentenced to 9 months in prison. This doesn't sound like much but at the age of 10 you need your father around. at the same time a married man at our church started making advances toward my mother forcing us to leave. All these different situations caused me to grow up faster than any boy should have to, and because of that it made me hard. I wouldn't let anyone in, I put on a mask that stayed there for many years. it was a mask that said that I have it all together, I'm quiet and shy but there's nothing wrong here. When my father returned home he immediately moved out. however he was still a loving father so he stayed close by and me and my younger brother traveled between houses every week due to our parent's joint custody. it was at this point that I began to attend Bethel church in Chehalis. I arrived a few years before Kyle and was in the children's program. and God began to plant a very small seed in very hard soil and water it one day at a time. it began slowly at first. being involved in camps and Christmas choirs. Then at a summer camp in 8th grade God told me I would become a youth pastor, and at evoke two years later He told me I would attend this school. At the time I was very excited but as usual excitement fades with time and that which we saw as unshakeable truth becomes an unpredictable tide. For a time I gave up on my call. I wanted to be a teenager and make the mistakes that everyone told me to avoid cause I thought I was smarter. I spent time with the wrong people, let others influence me in ways they never should have, and lost my virginity even though I had always promised myself that I would wait for the woman God had for me. I never became a bad student or a rebellious child, but I started crossing lines and compromising the standard God had for me. I fell into a pornography addiction and that haunted me for 4 years until one day God grabbed me by the scruff of my neck and forced me to acknowledge Him one night in my room. after that it was a daily battle but God freed me from that addition. I went on to be in the student leadership in Bethel's youth group for 6 years where I was able to preach in a service. (I have a dvd if you have any interest in seeing it I always appreciate advice from someone with more experience) It was at that point 2 weeks before I left for northwest that God renewed the calling to be a youth pastor in my life. Through God's amazing grace and power my relationship with my father has been repaired and is better than ever, my purity has been restored, I have become wiser and more mature because of my past instead of growing hateful and making more mistakes, and lastly he has increased my love for myself and the world in which we live. My most recent battle is that in February of last year I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, so far it has no cure and even if monitored closely will take years off of my life. I do not know what God's plan is in this but because of where I have been I know it will be for His glory in my life. I hope that you can use my testimony to help someone.

Thank you for listening.

God bless,

Ben Howard