

## From the Lead Pastor's Desk for July 29

### New This Week

#### **Singles Lunch BBQ at Visbeeks Sunday**

If you are single, you are invited to join Pastor Jim and Janet for a BBQ Sunday afternoon at the ranch after the Sunday service. Nothing to bring, just show up and hang out, eat great BBQ, and fellowship. If you have any ideas of how Victory can minister to singles in new and fresh ways, there will be a time of talking about ideas for ministry. Who is invited? Single means anyone not married. Transportation both to and from the Visbeek's is available and free.

#### **Victory Youth Pool Party at Nieuwsma's Sunday at 5:30**

Another fun and meaningful evening of Food, Fun, and Friendship as we combine with Northside's Ignite for a great pool party at Nieuwsma's, 8600 Bender Rd. from 5:30 to 8:00pm Sunday night. Start your evening off with some BBQ, a devotional, and finish with time at the pool and other games. Bring a swimsuit and towel. No van transportation

#### **Victory Monthly Day of Prayer**

Victory is joining 45 other churches in Whatcom County in a 24 hour, every day Monthly Prayer effort for our churches, cities, and county starting on August 15. This effort will be led by Elder John Kroontje and our Prayer Coordinator Tina Miller.

Victory is adopting the 3rd Wednesday of each month in which we are asking for a minimum commitment from volunteers to pray for ½ or 1-hour time periods. There are no meetings, prayer can be done anywhere convenient for you during your time-slot.

Prior to the day, prayer requests, praises, answers and vision for our church and community will be shared as a prayer guide. I would encourage families to take a slot and pray as a family, couples to pray together, or groups of friends to team up over coffee or an activity. Taking a walk or doing an activity and praying during your time is also meaningful.

You can sign up on the clipboards in the hall ministry table, or call or email the church office at 360 354-8055 or [office@vcflynden.com](mailto:office@vcflynden.com).

#### **New Members of Victory August 19**

We will be receiving new members into our Victory Family on August 19th. If you are interested in joining VCF, please see Pastor Jim or one of our Elders.

Last week, someone asked me to clarify the question: "Does God change His mind?" Since the evidence I presented only covered 2 situations, they seem to think the answer needed amplification. So, over the next 2 weeks, I will try to provide a more thorough treatment.

Malachi 3:6 declares, *"I the LORD do not change."* Similarly, James 1:17 tells us, *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."* Num. 23:19 is clear: *"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill?"*

Based on these verses, no, God does not change. God is unchanging and unchangeable. He is also all-wise. So, He cannot "change His mind" in the sense of realizing a mistake, backtracking, and trying a new tack.

How then do we explain verses that seem to say that God does change His mind? Verses such as Gen. 6:6, *"The LORD was grieved that He had made man on the earth, and His heart was filled with pain."* Ex. 32:14 proclaims, *"Then the LORD relented and did not bring on His people the disaster He had threatened."* The story in Jonah 3 also seem to indicate the Lord "repenting" or "relenting" of something and seem to contradict the doctrine of God's immutability.

There are two important considerations involving the passages that say God changed His mind. According to [www.gotanswers.org](http://www.gotanswers.org), First, we can say statements such as "the LORD was grieved that He had made man on the earth" (Gen. 6:6) are examples of anthropathism (or anthropopatheia).

Anthropopatheia is a figure of speech in which the feelings or thought processes of finite humanity are ascribed to the infinite God. It's a way to help us understand God's work from a human perspective. In Gen 6:6 specifically, we understand God's sorrow over man's sin. God obviously did not reverse His decision to create man. The fact that we are alive today is proof that God did not "change His mind" about the creation.

Second, we must make a distinction between conditional declarations of God and unconditional determinations of God. In other words, when God said, "I will destroy Nineveh in 40 days," He was speaking conditionally upon the Assyrians' response. We know this because the Assyrians repented, and God did not, in fact, carry out the judgment. God did not change His mind; rather, His message to Nineveh was a warning meant to provoke repentance, and His warning was successful.

An example of an unconditional declaration of God is the Lord's promise to David, *"Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever"* (2 Sam. 7:16). There is no qualification expressed or implied in this declaration. No matter what David did or did not do, the word of the Lord would come to pass.

Next week, we will explore the cautionary nature of God's declarations and how entirely consistent he is in his treatment of his creation.

## VOLUNTEERS

We are very grateful for our many volunteers that serve faithfully week after week as well as those who step forward to meet periodic needs that come up in our church family. If you would like to volunteer in any area please contact Nancy D or complete the tear off page in Sunday's bulletin and place it in the offering bag.

[www.vcflynden.com](http://www.vcflynden.com)

### Ministries for Serving Your VCF Family

Worship-singing, playing an instrument, operating the soundboard

Children's Ministry, being part of a teaching team or assisting a teacher

Men's Ministry-share your faith story, help cook a breakfast, facilitate a Bible study

Women's Ministry- be part of the planning team, facilitate a Bible study, Partner with another woman in our Heart to Heart Partnering, share your faith story

Youth-be available to provide transportation for meetings and activities, be a mentor or prayer partner, host a youth event, provide snacks

Fellowship-be on a rotational list to prepare snacks for fellowship on Sunday

Greeting-greet and take the offering on a rotational basis for Sunday service

Hospitality-reach out to guests to help them get connected to our VCF family

REACH-be part of a intergenerational team that plans events for our VCF family

A complete calendar of events is located at [www.vcflynden.com](http://www.vcflynden.com) but here are this week's highlights!

### Saturday

#### Sunday

8:45 Class on Psalms Room 3. Please see John Meenk for details.

Victory Youth

Pool Party 5:30-8:00

#### Tuesday

Prayer 1-5pm in Ruth's home Pray about anything on your heart! If you are willing to be a part of passionate prayer for prodigals, please e-mail Ruth at [rnrleon50@msn.com](mailto:rnrleon50@msn.com).

#### Wednesday

Men's Bible study with Garrett Wise 1:00 at Lynden Starbucks

#### Thursday

LOV Bible study and prayer 9:30-11:30 at Ruth's home to resume in the fall

Prayer 1-5pm in Ruth's home Pray about anything on your heart! If you are willing to be a part of passionate prayer for prodigals, please e-mail Ruth at [rnrleon50@msn.com](mailto:rnrleon50@msn.com).

No worship practice tonight



To connect with other  
VCF Families join  
[Faithlife.com/  
families](http://Faithlife.com/families)