



Solving a Rubik's Cube



Pastor Daniel Buckley

This last Summer I set out to accomplish a life-long desire of mine: to solve a Rubik's Cube. If you aren't familiar with this toy, it is a 3 by 3 cube with different colored sides. The base is white, the top is yellow, and the sides are red, green, orange, and blue. Each of the six sides has 9 squares and you have to line up the squares on the sides by rotating and rotating and rotating...

Anyway, I have owned Rubik's Cubes in the past and I haven't been able to solve them. There are logarithms in place that help solve it, but I was determined to solve it on my own. I tried and tried and then something happened. When I was a substitute teacher at a middle school last year, a bunch of the students had Rubik's Cubes and they were solving them with ease. I knew they used the logarithms but I was too frustrated to jump on their boat and set my course with them. My stubbornness just made the frustration grow and grow until I couldn't take it anymore. I Googled the solution to the Rubik's Cube and printed out the instructions.

With the solution, I could solve the Rubik's Cube and line up all of the colors in order, but there was still a problem. I had to have the instructions with me all the time. So all Summer I spent every idle mo-

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Nehemiah's Prayer

5...“Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, **6** let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have committed against you. **7** We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

8 “Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, **9** but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.’

10 “They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. **11** Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.”... *Nehemiah 1 (NIV)*

(Continued from page 1)

ment with the cube in hand doing the up, left, back, right, up, left--that's not the logarithm but you get the idea. There are five phases to the solution and I memorized each phase by working on them over and over again. Two months passed and I finally proved to my wife and daughters that I could solve the cube without the aid of the instructions. Now, I can solve any unsolved cube with ease and my best time is under 90 seconds.

The point of all this isn't to brag--but I can because I can solve a Rubik's Cube--the point is that I learned something else in my adventure last Summer. I learned that my journey was like many faith journeys. First, our human desire is to solve life on our own, but that gets frustrating. Next, we see others with the solution from God and it looks great but we'd still rather do it on our own so we keep on stubbornly trying to solve life alone. Then, we see someone turn to God who shouldn't and it makes us even more stubborn, thinking we are better than that. But this all finally leads to a point when we just know that we can't do it on our own anymore and we decide to turn to God. When this happens, we are new in the faith and we have to turn to the instructions (Bible and Church) over and over again. Finally, down the line, we are able to be with God on our own and can help others come to know God.

Okay, so it doesn't always happen this way, but you get the point and see that we can be stuck in a lot of different phases in our faith. Sometimes we rely on others and sometimes they rely on us, but the common denominator is to be with God. Rest in his presence this week and know that God will give you rest.

***This article is from Pastor Daniel's Blog on the church website. To see the Blog go to www.cc-ashland.org and click on the "How To Connect" tab and select the "Pastor's Blog". Feel free to comment on the articles and give your feedback.



STARTING...FEBRUARY 15

A study through Nehemiah: your life and the Church in progress with God.

“Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.

Nehemiah 2:18b

Miracle

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul. Psalms 66:16

Have you ever thought about miracle...what is it really? I know we often refer to truly wonderful things as miracles although they are perfectly natural. The birth of a child or the rebirth of life in the spring are examples of this. We tend to begin thinking there are no real miracles, only things that fill us with wonder or awe but are natural. Even the miracles in the Bible are like that. I find myself looking for natural explanations rather than simply being amazed and believing like those who saw them in person. Sometimes I wonder if I really believe in miracles...at least today. But then I hear another reliable account of something that is not natural...something truly supernatural. More subtle is the unexpected coherence in life happenings with no apparent planning. Coincidence? Maybe or maybe not? If you have also wondered about miracles you are not alone. Books have been written about them, e.g. *Miracles* by C. S. Lewis. Suppose miracles happen and by their supernatural nature violate the natural order (the laws of science). I am then left with several choices.

- ◆ Believe in the orderly laws of nature which explains what I see and reject miracle which I can't explain. Many choose this option.
- ◆ Believe in miracles based on the testimony of reliable witnesses and believe in the laws of nature too. Of course when a miracle happens I must suspend my belief in natural law which threatens my ability to rely on the laws of nature.

I prefer the second option but it is much more difficult to explain. But I must always be ready to provide a reason for what I believe (1 Peter 3:15). Our current class (9:30 AM on Sunday) on *Foundations of Apologetics* (Ravi Zacharias International Ministries) has forced me to critically examine my beliefs so I will be able to explain my reasons. I began looking for a simple illustration that might shed light on my dilemma and my need to be able to explain what I believe.

We are accustomed to signposts and signals encountered on the streets. Some convey a single unique truth such as a STOP sign. No doubt what to do here, the message is unambiguous and clear. Another is the signal for pedestrians at a cross walk. Sometimes it says WALK and other times WAIT. The signal is always true but the message is sometimes one thing and at other times another. They do not agree. I would like to think that the tension between natural order and miracle is like this. There is a higher truth to which natural order and miracle are both subordinate. If such an overriding truth did exist for the natural and supernatural just how would we know about it? See Romans 1:19-20.

Here is another signpost from nature. Most of us know something about waves and particles. At the beach we have no problem distinguishing the waves in the ocean from the particles of sand on the shore. It may surprise you to know that on the atomic scale of matter this distinction becomes fuzzy. Here particles sometimes behave like waves (electron diffraction by crystals) and waves act like particles (the photoelectric effect). The characteristic that prevails very much depends on the context. The truth is that both characteristics are evident interchangeably under differing circumstances. At this point you may wish to throw up your hands like another well-known skeptic in the Bible who stated bluntly, "What is truth?" (John 18:38)

As I struggle to explain what I believe is true I am comforted by the fact that Truth was also elusive for Thomas. He was skeptical like most of us. He refused to believe the reported miracle of the resurrection. It wasn't natural. And then he saw Him too...and fell on his knees.

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

(John 20:28-31)

The signposts are there for all. Whether we can read them or not depends on our context. To believe or not to believe, that is the eternal question (Shakespeare said it a bit differently). If you are able to believe, like Thomas, it will be good for your soul, you will be blessed.

Brunch (Hoo Ha Ha) Potluck on January 25th



breakfast casseroles, salads, quiches were all delicious and there was even room for dessert. Many attended and



newed friendship. Join us in February on the 22nd for our next Potluck and bring a friend.

Our first themed Potluck of the year was a success and there was plenty to eat. During the service, we were blessed to smell the efforts of those in the kitchen hard at work as the Brunch aromas rose to the sanctuary. The pancakes, biscuits,



the conversations were littered with laughter and thoughts of joy as everyone enjoyed a time of fellowship and re-



Women's Bible Study

Charity will be hosting a Women's Bible Study at the Buckley home in Talent on Thursday nights 7pm—Bring your favorite Tea.

Table 2.0

Church doesn't end just because the worship service is over. "Church" is the body of Christ seeking God's kingdom, not just an event on Sunday morning. Prayer, service, study and fellowship are important aspects of faith that shouldn't be restricted to the hour we sit in a pew. That's what the Table is all about. It's a private social network that is just for our church which enables us to connect 24/7, not just on Sunday.

It's been two years since we introduced our congregation to the *Table*. This last December *Table* underwent a major upgrade. Today's world is mobile. Smartphone technology permeates our lives. Our daily rhythm includes 150 or so glances at our phones. *Table* built a platform that aims to help every Church galvanize around prayer, serving one another, diving into the weeks learning, or whatever else you need. They built the mobile solution that puts the Church in the driver's seat of innovation.

We now have ready access to information about Daniel's current and past teaching. As part of this access we plan to have Daniel's outlines for his next series "Under Construction" posted before each message. You can then access the outline and even add your own notes while listening to Daniel on Sunday mornings. You will also be able to listen a recording of the message as soon as it is posted. *(there is currently a bug that is preventing the audio from showing up)*

Prayer continues to be an important part of our church life and is an important part of *Table*. With our smart phones we now have immediate notification about prayer requests and praises. More importantly we can take a moment to pray right then (if not driving) and by clicking on pray now the person requesting prayer know who is with them in prayer.

If you have not looked at *Table* in a while check out the new 2.0 on your smart phone I think you will like what you see. Be sure to update your profile since it helps get us better connected.

Learn more at table.org and let us know what you think.

Brad Fish



Calendar of Events

Sunday, February 1

THE “BIG GAME” PARTY

3:00 pm —Fellowship Hall

Let’s get together and watch the “Big Game” on the big screen. Bring snacks and drinks.

Saturday, February 7

SAINTS ALIVE BREAKFAST

9 am—Iron Skillet (Phoenix)

It’s time for a another great breakfast gathering at the Iron Skillet in Phoenix. This is open to all (you don’t need to be a Saint). Bring a joke or funny story and a friend. Plan on leaving home a little early because of the construction on I-5.

Sunday, February 8

BOARD MEETING

12:30 pm —Fellowship Hall

Following the Service

Friday, February 20

THE CLEARING

6:00 pm —Fellowship Hall

This is a time for our young families to get together for fun and fellowship.

Sunday, February 22

MONTHLY POTLUCK

12:15 pm —Fellowship Hall

Following the Service we fellowship together and enjoy a great potluck.

Wednesday, February 25

NEWSLETTER FOLDING

10:00am—Fellowship Hall

On the last Wednesday of the month a dedicated group of individuals give of their time to fold and prepare the monthly newsletter for the mail. Come and join them for this worthwhile service to our church. We follow the folding with a potluck lunch.



**Junior Winter Camp
(3rd-5th Graders)
February 6-8, 2015**

Theme: The Lego Movie

Sign up now—\$70

Directors: Jennifer Violette and Morgan Yourdon

Camp Times: Starts at 4 pm Friday, and ends at 10 am Sunday

Speaker: Daniel Buckley (Christian Church of Ashland Pastor)

Camp Times: Starts at 4 pm on Friday, and ends at 1 pm on Sunday

Weekly Events

Sundays

9:30am Adult Bible Study (Downstairs)

Children's Sunday School

10:45am—Worship Celebration

11:00am— Jr. Worship Age 2– 5th grade (Upstairs)

Mondays

7:45am Real Men, Iron Skillet, Phoenix

6:15pm Ladies Zumba Exercise , Fellowship Hall

Tuesdays

9:30am Piece Corps, Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays

6:15pm Ladies Zumba Exercise , Fellowship Hall

Thursdays

7:00pm Women's Bible Study at the Buckley's home



"COULD YOU COME BY MY CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY, SAY, AROUND 11 O'CLOCK?"

Celebrations!!



February Birthdays

- 1 - Summer Witte
- 5 - Christopher Sultan
- 12 - Jessica Witt
- 13 - Jose Villalobos
- 14 - Neil Gosswiller
- 15 - Emily McKinney
- 16 - William (Bill) Doods
- 18 - Aaron Witte
- 19 - Dona Heath
- 28 - Nathanael Rogers
- 28 - Sean Rogers



February Anniversaries

None

Editor's Note: For any changes or updates, please contact the office.
Thank you. Brad

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Service Schedule
9:30 AM Adult Bible Study
10:45 AM Worship
11:00 AM Jr. Worship

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.
Matthew 22:37*

Missions

Dear Christian church of Ashland and SI-Family.

I, missionary Richard Esinyen of International Pentecostal Church Kainuk, appreciate the brothers and sisters of Christian Church of Ashland for donating a motorbike for me. I say thank you very much may God abundantly bless you and enlarge you all.

This motorbike is a blessing to me, since it will make it easier for me to go from the mother church, Kainuk to the other church at Kakong'u, which is 35kms away.

My family and I are very much happy for the gift since it will help us reach to other parts that have not heard of good news of our Heavenly Father, since we also have a plan of opening another branch at Kalemng'orok, so may God abundantly bless you for that.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank brother and sisters of Share International of Lodwar office and also those in America because if not them May be it would be difficult for me in this journey of seeking the kingdom of God, May Heavenly Father bless you all, strengthen and double his blessing to all those who have sacrificed to see me easily travel from one place to another preaching the Gospel of God. I promise to continue preaching the Gospel to the children of God who are still lost in sin. So thank you all .

God bless you.
Yours in Christ Service.
Missionary Richard Esinyen.

