



The 4th Focus

“Back 2 Basics” - Pastor Tim

While we may anxiously read the news about the war in Syria, crime in our city, health care and the economy, the most imminent and dangerous threats are those that would subtly drag us away from life in Jesus. These threats include our godless culture/media, the “powers of this dark world” and “spiritual forces,” and our own sinful, idol-making hearts.

But there is great encouragement! “...The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 John 4:4). The real unavoidable battle is between God’s Spirit living in us and Satan and his forces. If we apathetically sit on the sidelines or busily work hard in our own strength, we lose. The only way to make real progress and take ground rather than lose ground in the battle for our hearts and the hearts of our children is to surrender some of our crazy, busy work and mindless minutes of every day to take up the real work of prayer (Ephesians 6:18).

I admit that even though prayer is one of the most important responsibilities that I shoulder as a pastor, I struggle to believe and be faithful in this work and ministry. I tend to just get busy and work harder rather than slow down and pray harder. Since obedience and faithfulness in this vital discipline is a struggle for most of us, I want to share a guide (by John Piper) that has helped me. When my spouse comes up on my list of people/concerns that I pray for throughout the week, this guide serves well and can serve in your prayers for your husband or anyone:

Our hunger for God will not be confined to our closets. As we know him and delight in all that he is for us in Jesus, our joy in him reaches beyond personal experience on a quest to be reproduced in others. One of the simplest ways we realize this is by taking serious how we pray — by wanting and asking for others the same things we want and ask for ourselves.

It is a beautiful thing — a miracle — when we become as invested in the sanctification of others as we are in our own. And, of course, the best place to start is with our spouses.

So men, here are ten things to want from God (and ask from him) for your wife:

- 1. God, be her God — her all-satisfying treasure and all. Make her jealous for your exclusive supremacy over all her affections (Psalm 73:24–25).*
- 2. Increase her faith — give her a rock-solid confidence that your incomparable power is only always wielded for her absolute good in Christ (Romans 8:28–30).*
- 3. Intensify her joy — a joy in you that abandons all to the riches of your grace in Jesus and that says firmly, clearly, gladly: "I'll go anywhere and do anything if you are there" (Exodus 33:14–15).*
- 4. Soften her heart — rescue her from cynicism and make her tender to your presence in the most complicated details of dirty diapers and a multitude of other needs you've called her to meet (Hebrews 1:3).*
- 5. Make her cherish your church — build relationships into her life that challenge and encourage her to walk in step with the truth of the gospel, and cause her to love corporate gatherings, the Lord's Table, and the everyday life of the body (Mark 3:35).*
- 6. Give her wisdom — make her see dimensions of reality that I would overlook and accompany her vision with a gentle, quiet spirit that feels safe and celebrated (1 Peter 3:4).*
- 7. Sustain her health — continue to speak your gift of health and keep us from presumption; it is by blood-bought grace (Psalm 139:14).*
- 8. Multiply her influence — encourage and deepen the impact she has on our children. Give her sweet glimpses of it. Pour her out in love for our neighbors and spark creative ways to engage them for Jesus's sake (John 12:24).*
- 9. Make her hear your voice — to read the Bible and accept it as it really is, your word... your very word to her where she lives, full of grace and power and everything she needs pertaining to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).*
- 10. Overcome her with Jesus — that she is united to him, that she is a new creature in him, that she is your daughter in him. . . No longer in Adam and dead to sin; now in Christ and alive to you, forever (Romans 6:11).*

And then a thousand other things. Amen.



I'm Kristi Selle and I'm going to be the music intern here at Fourth until spring! I have lived in a single-stoplight town all my life and I love it. We're a hunting, farming, bonfire-having hick town in the middle of no-where.

If we want more to do than go to the bowling alley (it's only open half the time it says it will be) or the grocery store, we drive a half an hour to the nearest cities. I never realized until I came to Grand Rapids for college that we have a slower pace of life. Sometimes I miss it.

I have four sisters, two older and two younger. My parents have worked hard for us to have the things we did growing up and I thank them for that. There's so much that we got through dance and piano lessons or soccer, band, choir, church youth group, and the pom squad that we couldn't have gotten without their willingness to deal with the crazy schedule it made, and is still making with my younger siblings.

I am in my senior year at Kuyper College, (hopefully) graduating in April with a double major in Music & Worship and Bible & Theology. I very much enjoy college and all the work that I do there. I keep a busy schedule that sometimes is too much, but is incredibly rewarding!

I was first introduced to Fourth through a friend at Kuyper who helped out at EMS (now 180) and bothered me all year to go, so finally, in my second semester I went. I fell in love with the ministry and the kids there. After about two months I was talking about how hard it was for me to find a church to go to and Julie Schalk asked me if I had been to a Sunday service yet - I had missed the obvious! So that Sunday I went and for every Sunday since (that I've been on this side of the state) I've been at Fourth. So now I have the privilege of being an intern under Julie for anything to do with music!

Some silly odd things about me are that I love to debate politics (and if you can handle it) a good theological debate is always fun. Books are my favorite companion on a grassy hillside on a sunny day. I read historical fiction, straight history books, and theology for fun (I'm a nerd, I got it). I make jewelry, so if you want anything let me know and I'll do my best to whip it together for you!



Sept.

- 1 - Mary Proos
- 2 - Dale Springfield
- 4 - Abbie Schalk
- 7 - Timothy Brinks
- 8 - Ruby Parler
- 9 - John Gebhart
- 9 - Travis Bolt
- 11 - Katie Faasse
- 11 - Norm Schalk
- 12 - Jajuan Woods
- 15 - Elisabeth McDowell
- 17 - Eleanor DeFouw
- 19 - Jessica Berrios
- 22 - Barb Funckes
- 23 - Marty Berthiaume
- 23 - Verta Burggraaf
- 23 - Deb Robinson
- 26 - Steve Burggraaf
- 26 - Eric Schalk
- 27 - Elise Leasure

Oct.

- 1 - Dave Randall
- 1 - Becky Tubergen
- 3 - Kintaro Rossiter
- 4 - Julie Gleason
- 5 - Leah Walton
- 6 - Joshua Schalk
- 11 - Sandy Gleason
- 11 - Analie Woods
- 15 - Sue Hawkins
- 15 - Jennifer Wammack
- 15 - John Bills
- 17 - Brian Tubergen
- 18 - Richanda Bolt
- 18 - Adam Villalobos
- 19 - Diane Christians
- 21 - Grace Parmeter
- 21 - Addison McDowell
- 22 - Bob Scherpenisse
- 25 - Bob Burggraaf
- 26 - Nancy Aukema
- 28 - Suzanne Bolt
- 30 - Phyllis Berrevoets
- 30 - Dianne Waterloo



I'm going to talk a little bit about camp at Cran-Hill Ranch. The camp was three days long. At camp your parents either signed you up for classic or horsemanship. Avery Gleason and I signed up for horsemanship.

In horsemanship, we went down to the barn and practiced different things like trotting and taking control of our horse. Every morning we ate breakfast and we got ready for the day, then we went to a tent and sang praises to Jesus. Then we went to classic or horsemanship. Well, that's what we did at camp.

- Abbie Schalk

Summer Camp



This past summer was my second year as a C.I.T. (Counselor in Training) at Son-Life Camp. Our theme this year was “INSIDE OUT!” from I Corinthians 10:31, “..whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

The week of June 8 we had staff orientation. June 13, we were commissioned in our work for the summer and during the week of June 16, we started with campers. I worked through August 2 with campers. The kids I worked with were from 1st grade to 11th grade. We had Day Campers, Primary Camp Experience, Junior Escape, Teen Extreme, and Out-Post Expedition.

I really enjoyed working with the campers and sharing Jesus with them. We did

waterfront activities like swimming, sand castles, tubing, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and paddle boating. I liked playing field games with the kids like Gold Rush, Capture the Flag, 9 Square in the Air, Four Corners, soccer, and kick ball. We played basketball, gaga ball, and did crafts. The prayer walk to the camp fire pit was meaningful.

The kids choose different “Quests” to do throughout the day like archery, mud pit or mountain boarding. A new activity the kids enjoyed was tomahawk throwing.

I led “Fusion” for day campers which is our Bible study lesson. We had “In the Word Time” for the overnight campers. We had campfires, sang songs, ate s’mores, and enjoyed the “Snack Shack.” The campers had fun with special theme nights for example “Inside out Night or “Mis-Match Night” was where they wore their clothes inside out or mismatched.

My brother James went to the Out-Post Expedition which started out at Son-Life and then went up to Baldwin for canoeing and rafting. He said it was the best camp experience he ever had!

Thank you to everyone for your prayers and support for my work at Son-Life Camp this summer!

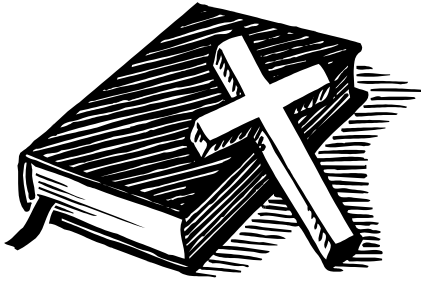
- Tim Brinks



Many memories are made at Cran-Hill Ranch each Labor Day week end. Whether it's riding a horse for the first time, eating all the awesome treats the Tubergens can make around a campfire, or like these young ladies, having tea with Mama Sue.



Reformed Church Heritage - Church Independence, Part II



Beginning in 1754, two opposing groups would plunge the Reformed Church into a deep schism. One side sought to continue subordinate ties to the church in the Netherlands while the earlier discussed Coetus moved toward becoming an independent American church.

An idea supported by both sides was the training and ordaining of ministers in America. For some time, plans had been made to establish a college in New York City, which became King's College (later Columbia University). A debate arose over whether the college should be Anglican or non-sectarian. Since there was no strong support for either choice in the colonial assembly, each side appealed to the non-committed Dutch Reformed community. Among those against an Anglican college was newspaper editor William Livingston, who wrote and published several articles describing what he predicted as a future Anglican plan to dominate the Dutch church.

While many of the Dutch opposed the Anglican College idea, others lead by Rev. Johannes Ritzema of New York favored it. Officials hinted that in exchange for Reformed Church support, a special chair of Dutch theology might be created at the college. Ritzema's support may have stemmed from his desire to fill this position. Yet, when a charter was granted for the college in 1754, there was no mention of a Dutch professorship. Ritzema successfully appealed directly to the governor without consulting his own consistory. A revised charter included the professorship, but nothing concerning salary or job security. The New York consistory felt betrayed and censured Ritzema for his secrecy.

What Ritzema had hoped would unite the church instead deeply divided it. Alarmed by the King's College deliberations, the Coetus moved closer toward independence. Rev. Theodorus Frelinghuysen, son of the revival leader, had long been barred from attending Coetus meetings by his anti-Coetus consistory. Now seeing the need to act, he went about raising support for a separate Classis and Reformed college. He was commissioned to go to the Netherlands to raise support, but waited 4 ½ years before departing.

Opponents of the Coetus agreed to meet at times "in conference" and thus were called the Conferentie. At the initial meeting in 1755, five ministers were present, lead by Ritzema, as well as Rev. Lambertus DeRonde (secretary), together with Rev. Gerardus Haeghoort, Rev Antonius Curtenius and Rev. Benjamin VanderLinde. The latter three may have joined because they had been previously disciplined by the Coetus. The number of Conferentie minister delegates was never very large, with the highest attendance at a meeting being ten in 1765. Regarding American ordinations, the Conferentie saw the need as much as the Coetus, but still under the close supervision of Classis Amsterdam. Only one minister was ever licensed by the Conferentie, Garret Lydekker (in 1765) who openly supported the British during the American Revolutionary War and was later exiled to England.

In time the Coetus began to take on the appearance of a regular classis. Beginning with Henry Frelinghuysen, it began to license and ordain ministers without classical permission. The Coetus was further strengthened in 1766 when it established Queen's College at New Brunswick, New Jersey. As America moved closer to Revolution, the Coetus' correspondence with Classis Amsterdam grew bolder as well, asserting its *inherent rights* over past rules.

The Coetus-Conferentie split was to devastate the church for 18 years. Families and congregations were torn apart. The church at Hackensack, New Jersey divided into two hostile congregations which met at different times in the same building, each with its own minister and consistory. At times, ministers were assaulted or barred from entering churches while a war was waged on both sides in the printed word. While remaining more or less neutral, Classis Amsterdam reprimanded each side for a lack of Christian love. Eventually, healing and unity was to come largely through the influence of a single individual.

- Eric O'Brock
Reformed Church Independence, Part III.