

Christian Legal Society - Oklahoma City

July 2009 NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING LUNCHES

On **Tuesday, July 21, Paul Blair** will be our speaker. Paul is a former NFL player and has served as a TV sports analyst. He has been involved in numerous community, business and athletic endeavors. He is now the senior pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Edmond. He is currently promoting the ministry to "Reclaim Oklahoma," a challenge to awaken people and a return to Biblical morality. This is a kindred spirit to our own meetings to pray for repentance and revival.

On **Friday, August 21, Dan Holloway and Bob Raftery** will present closing arguments in a case to prove the resurrection. One will present the case against the resurrection and one will present the case for the resurrection. Who else, more than Christian attorneys, ought to be able to explain this foundational truth to the world and to answer the claims of the critics and skeptics? Even if you have grown up in church and studied the resurrection, this will be challenging and helpful. It will be a good lesson in defending the faith against the claims of a secular society.

On **Friday, September 25, David Van Meter and Wendy McMahon** will share scripture passages that have changed their life. Many of us have "life" verses or verses that have sustained us in time of trial or verses that have impacted our lives. This will not only be a time of testimony about what God is able to do, but a time of Bible study as well, as we look at powerful passages of scripture. We will do this from time to time in the upcoming months. If you wish to share, let us know.

Lunches are at the Petroleum Club from 11:45 to 1:00. Go through the buffet line on the 35th floor. Cost is \$12.

OPPORTUNITIES

Trinity Legal Aid Clinic
Our banquet raised about \$900 for the Trinity Legal Clinic. This is a tremendous ministry opportunity. There are a number of ways to participate and you will be blessed each way. Contact Lynn, the Executive Director, at 410-4544 or check out trinitylegalclinic on the internet.

Prayer Group. We meet for lunch and prayer on the second Tuesday of each month at the office of Lloyd McAlister in the Kirkpatrick Bank Building at the corner of Broadway and 15th in Edmond. The meal is furnished. We share requests and pray. Contact Pamela Roach at www.proach@msn.com for more info.

National Conference
The national conference is in San Diego October 15 - 18. Several from our group are going. This will be a tremendous conference and time of fellowship. For more check out clsnet.org. Also, please consider joining CLS if you have not done so.

Referral List

The referral list for this year has been compiled. If you filled out line for the referral list on your enrollment form you will be on this list. To save costs we are not mailing a hard copy to everyone. If you are on the email notice list, you will receive the referral list by email. It is a Word document that you can print if you want to. If you are not on the email list please c o n t a c t david@vanmeterlawfirm.com. You can also obtain an email copy b y r e q u e s t f r o m david@vanmeterlawfirm.com or from okkidsdad@cox.net.

Business Leaders Group Make contact for both business and ministry. This group meets the first Thursday of each month downtown. Contact the Van Meter Law Office at 228-4949 for info.

The Birds - Part I - the Nest

I looked through the glass beside our front door and I could see all four of them looking over the top of their nest. They were not the graceful creatures their parents were. The four baby birds were comical. Their beaks were not pointed, but wide and flat, so when their mouths were closed they looked like a frog, and when opened, they looked huge. If I began to feel that being a parent was tough, I just thought about the momma and daddy birds trying to catch enough bugs to poke down those bottomless pits.

When the little critters raised up high enough for their bodies to be seen, they were just a puff of feathers. Anytime I needed a chuckle, I looked out at the birds.

Last year the birds caught us by surprise. They built a nest on the ledge above our front door. By the time I climbed up there to see what was going on, there were eggs in it, and I didn't have the heart to remove the nest. Well, after they hatched, they created an awful mess on our front porch that I was constantly having to hose off. After the babies were raised and gone, I climbed up and removed the nest. I wished them well, but they would have to live somewhere else. To make sure they didn't come back, I bought a rubber lizard and put it on the ledge above the door. Many of our guests have asked, "Why is there a lizard looking down from above your door?"

This spring I noticed birds swooping in and out from under our front porch. I checked and the lizard was still there, so I just figured the birds were upset because of the lizard and would go somewhere else. When I continued to notice birds flying away from the porch when I came home, I finally got a ladder and looked above the door. It was clean; no nest; the lizard was doing its job. I was pleased with my cleverness. Little did I know the birds were probably snickering behind me.

I kept noticing birds. I looked for a nest in the small tree in our front yard, but there was none. Then one day I happened to look through the glass by our front door, and my jaw probably dropped to the ground. The nest was not above the door, but attached to the top of the bricks on the other side of the porch. I had been duped. When I was on the ladder looking for a nest above the door, it was right behind me all the time.

My first reaction was to tear it down. It was too early for eggs; the birds could move. We were not going through that mess again. Then I studied the nest. Our front porch is small, just enough to keep someone at the front door out of the rain. There is a brick archway and tucked under the brick archway was the nest, made out of mud, attached to the bricks.

The more I looked at the nest the more amazed I became. It was perfectly placed, up high in the corner of the over hang. It was made from mud, with just enough grass to make the mud harder. I am sure it was lined inside.

I remembered the nest I had removed last year. It was made of grass, intricately interwoven, and then lined on the inside. I was impressed by that one, but this one; how did they get it to stick to the bricks? I looked at the design; it was rough on the outside, but that gave it strength.

Could I build such a nest? If I had a bucket of mud, I would have to practice and experiment over and over and I *might* come up with something. And, when it rained or the weather changed, my mud project would crack and crumble. But, this nest would stay intact through storms and heat.

The birds did not have a bucket of mud. I wondered how many trips they made. How did they keep the mud damp enough to work with? How did they get it to stick so well to the bricks. I could throw mud against the house and it would stick, but how does a bird accomplish that; and then make one bit of mud stick to another bit of mud over and over?

I did a little research and found the birds were barn swallows. Nevertheless, as I became more impressed with the birds, my wife was not happy about the nest. She remembered the mess on the porch when company came. She had about convinced me to tear it down when I thought about the birds' attitude. (Yes, some of us try to get inside the mind of a bird.)

Though they had been rudely ousted last year, they still returned. They went to a lot of trouble to build the nest on the other side of the porch where it would not make such a mess. They never flew into the house. When the front door opened they always flew away from the house. They did not dive or swoop at us (except for the dog) even when they had babies. It was as if the birds said, "if you will just give us this one little corner, we will stay out of the way and be your friends. Oh by the way, we also catch ten times our body weight each day in mosquitos, flies and other pests."

The clincher came when I ran across Psalm 84.

How lovely are Your dwelling places, O Lord of hosts. . . The bird also has found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself where she may raise her young, . . . how blessed are those who dwell in your house!

If God, who had some pretty strict rules about His house, actually welcomed the swallows, maybe we should too. Perhaps the swallows were a sign of blessing.

At any rate, each time I looked at the nest, I was reminded of the magnificent detail and wisdom of creation. I was also humbled, knowing I had been outsmarted by these birds. I began to admire their character and abilities.

They not only built a nest by their intelligence, hard work and persistence, but their discipline was exemplary. They were always up and flying no matter how early we got up and they flew throughout the day.

Many times I watched them fly far away or high into the sky and back. I wondered how many miles they flew each day and how they could detect mosquitos at that speed. They stayed out of the way, minded their own business, and did what God intended for them to do, very well.

I wondered how many people are creative, wise, hard-working, disciplined and go about their tasks humbly. I guess I am in good company because even the Lord had similar thoughts.

Even the stork in the sky knows her seasons; and the turtledove and the swallow and the thrush observe the time of migration; but my people do not know the ordinance of the Lord. How can you say, "We are wise," Jer. 8:7

I learned a lot from the swallows and even more when I looked out one day and saw a fuzz ball with a comically wide beak and beady eyes looking over the nest. But, that is for next time. I know one thing. When someone calls me a bird brain, I will consider it a compliment.