

THOUGHTS

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“CAN THESE BONES LIVE?”

When the Lord wanted to encourage the Israelites who were captive in Babylon following the exile due to their sins, he gave the prophet Ezekiel a profound vision of a multitude of dry bones coming together and vivifying to form living people, an army for God. Prior to this demonstration the Lord inquired of Ezekiel, “Can these bones live (v.3)?” Ezekiel answered, “O sovereign Lord, only you know.”

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What a wise response from Ezekiel! He avoided the two classic blunders, distrusting in God’s power, which he would have revealed if he had answered in the negative, or displaying arrogant over-confidence, perhaps insinuating himself into the process, if he answered in the affirmative. I do not think Ezekiel was hedging his bets, but rather humbly subjugating his mind to the Lord’s.

Our God holds the power of resurrection, the power of life over death. Do you believe it? Do you believe that he can make your bones rise again? In Christ we are able to state a more vigorous, “Amen,” as opposed to a feeble, “only you know.”

BUILD UP YOUR CHILDREN, AND GUARD THEIR SOCIAL IDENTITY!

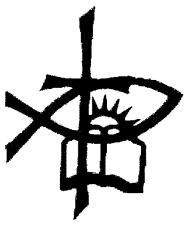
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Purportedly a new “suicide game” targeting teens is making its way around the world. It is called Blue Whale and is, “a social media game that has “curators” who target players between 10 and 14 years old. The curators push the kids to do a list of pained tasks including waking up in the middle of night, cutting themselves, and ultimately committing suicide. Those who get scared and attempt to leave the game received threats including suggestion that their parents will be killed.

The Cyberbullying Research Center believes Blue Whale is a hoax, but parents should be watchful what their teens are doing online and in social media. One tried and true method is to be part of their social network, the equivalent of checking their room at home. Watch for sudden, intense shifts in behavior or use of technology; it may mean something controlling is going on. Make sure, too, to reinforce your love for them, and set them an example of Godliness by being faithful in worship and Scripture reading/study, so you don’t look like a hypocrite when you say they are required to do the same.

2017

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*The Bible is God's Word . . . Jesus is God's "Word" made flesh . . .
His death and resurrection, the message needed Today.*

May

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KEY CHAPTERS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT WRITTEN

Many of you are familiar with the wonderful Scripture study books Key Chapters of the Bible/Gospels and Acts and Key Chapters of the Bible/Epistles which Pastor Paul wrote. I have completed the manuscript for Key Chapters of the Old Testament and while I have the ideas for the visuals worked out, I have no graphic artist to produce them for me. Our gifted artist in residence at Our Shepherd, Brian Struck, was called home by the Lord at a very young 48 years of age.

I am seeking a graphic artist who would wish to be involved in this work for the Lord. The book has thirteen chapters and would need 13 pieces of art to accompany them. Please pray that the Lord would provide the artist to allow this book to be completed!

39th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORD TODAY

On May 14th at Our Shepherd Lutheran in Greendale, Wisconsin, the home of The Word Today, we will celebrate the 39th Anniversary of the program! A survey of feedback from the mission field indicates that we are averaging 1,000 *conversions to Christ* every month in the 65 languages we broadcast, and the online site thewordtoday.org

I hope to have a powerful and encouraging update for you as the months move us toward our 40th anniversary! God seems to be giving us the means to continue to expand The Word Today. Thank you for your tireless support of TWT, and pray that the plans being put in place now will reap results going forward!

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

It is a common occurrence for us to see response from women, especially those in villages around the world, who indicate that *their husbands have stopped getting drunk and beating them since starting to listen to The Word Today!* When people come to Christ as adults this is a powerful experience and often results in profound life change. That is what being "born again" means, a different life here and now, and eternal life in the hereafter!

Blessings!

Douglas W. Schroeder

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