

Isaiah 40:31



volume 9; issue 1

# growth

soaring as eagles

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hear both sides of the story in this issue's Love Notes | 12 |

# what's inside?

#### 6 | PK Profile

Meet Brad Wells: missionary kid turned missionary with kids

#### 8 | I Have a Dream

Have Dreams. Live Dreams. Fulfill Dreams. by James Green

#### **12** Love Notes

Read both sides of the story. By Brad & Deborah Wells

#### **18 | Thinking About Home** By Paul D. L. Green

#### **22 | Musical Notes** By Terri Green





# A Letter to You:

We welcome all our readers to spend some quiet time reading each article of this spring issue. Some of you will be graduating, getting married, going off to college, or getting a job soon. Many of you will have a summer break and get right back into school again. The most important thing is that you are doing God's perfect will each day.

You can see as you read this issue that God has a special way of leading His sheep. Whatever you are pursuing, this issue will encourage you to wait on God and to trust your parents and your pastor to help guide you to make the right choices. I have always cherished Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." From my teen years, God has directed my life, and it has been wonderful! It has been the greatest adventure serving God and following His perfect will.

Soaring As Eagles is a family and local church ministry dedicated to encouraging teens to serve God. We reach out to all 50 states and 19+ foreign countries. This ministry is touching young lives across the globe and is encouraging them to love God and to do His perfect will. Please read every word of the magazine and let God speak to you in a special way.

For His Glory, Green, Editor



#### **MK: Brad Wells**

I was a junior in high school when my dad surrendered to go to the mission field of Papua New Guinea. He was an electrical engineer, had a beautiful home, 20 acres of farmland, two cars, a truck, a tractor, and a boat. He was living the dream and enjoying his dream.

I had decided that I would pursue a career in business marketing. I would finish college and settle somewhere close to my parents, but then my dad heard God calling him to a foreign country. During my senior year, Dad approached me about postponing my education for a year and going with them to PNG to help build a house in the jungle. It sounded like a great adventure, and I was young. So, why not?

That year completely changed my life. I got over to the other side of the globe and watched my dad begin to invest his life in people—not things, money, or position. We would sit around the kerosene lanterns in our leaky,



grass-roof hut in the evenings and talk about real life, real purpose.

When it was time for me to return to the states for college, I didn't go to the University of Southern California as previously planned. I attended Treasure Valley Baptist Bible Institute at my home church.

In my last year of institute, God spoke directly to my heart from Philippians 2:22, "But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with a father, he hath served with me in the gospel." Timothy was "as a son." I was a son! Why should I not use my life to serve with my father in the ministry? God confirmed my call, and I have had the privilege of working with my father in the country of Papua New Guinea for the past ten years.

God uses our spiritual gifts, our heart, our abilities, our personality, and our experiences to direct us to His specific will for our lives. Don't belittle that last one. When it comes to fulltime ministry, experience is priceless. •••END•••



-PK Profile Milita



#### By James Green

o you have a dream? ľm not talking about a wild story that you dreamed last night while you were sleeping. I mean a real goal or a plan for the future that you would love to see come true. God sometimes puts dreams in our hearts. and minds. Has He put one in yours? There was a man

who, a couple of decades ago, coined a slogan entitled "I have a dream." The



dream that he spoke about has been coming true over the last forty-plus years. The words, "I have a dream," have been spoken by thousands of people. Do you have a dream? There are 24 dreamers in the Bible and 34 recorded dreams. There are 22 dreams in the Old Testament and 12 dreams in the New Testament. The Bible tells of Joseph really having

With no dream you will do nothing.

8

a dream. It was a Godgiven dream that was going to be a blessing to a nation—actually to two nations.

n Genesis 37:5. Joseph dreamed dream. and in а verse 9 he dreamed vet another dream. Sometimes I dream wild dreams. Some dreams get so wild that I wake myself up to get out of trouble. My dad dreamed one time that he was preaching in his pajamas! I dreamed one time I was a muffler and woke up exhausted. (Ha!)That was я joke. Get it?) Once I dreamed I was eating a giant marshmallow. When I woke up, my pillow was gone! I've dreamed of 20 point bucks and 10 foot fish. Not really, but I dream as most people do. Some dreams are sad. Sometimes I dream about my mother, and she's been in heaven for over thirty years.

In the Bible days, God would use dreams to tell the future as He did with Joseph, Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar, and many others.

od gave Joseph Uthe dream of Genesis 37. It was something that no one could take away. It was a God-given dream. Joseph could stand and really say, "I have a dream." Little did he know what God had in mind and what course God would take him to fulfill the dream and the desires of his heart. The

dream he had charted his life and gave him a purpose to live.

Twould like to make a few observations about Joseph's dream.

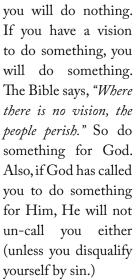
Joseph had a dream. This dream revealed God's will for not just one person but for a nation. What a blessing it would be if we could dream like that today! But God doesn't deal that way anymore because we have His fulfilled prophesy. We have the full Word, the prophesied Word. the guide to all faith and practice. If you of hear someone saying today, "I had dream and God a said in the dream... or I saw a 900 foot Jesus...," I think they





ate too much pizza. God doesn't deal in visions and dreams anymore. We have the full dream, the full vision right here, and following it will not be a nightmare. I believe the Bible teaches that today God works though the Holy Spirit, His Word, and through circumstances to show us our goals in life. I believe we should have a goal, a dream, a vision. Our dreams should not merely be ambitions, but our from God.

Have a dream—a desire, a goal. Ask God to show you something that you can do and set out to do it for the glory of God. If you have a vision to do nothing,



Toseph had this dream and later God fulfilled it. When I was fourteen, God called me to preach. He gave me a dream of being a preacher. For over thirty-five years, I have been living in my dream and sharing my dream with others.

Hey, get a dream. Get a goal. Get a vision on life and do

10

it. If you don't have a divine calling yet, get a goal of being faithful—faithful to God, faithful to church, faithful to a bus route, faithful to a ministry. God said if we were faithful in little, he would make us ruler over much. Get even a little dream and watch that dream expand!

Why don't you ask God to show you His will? "Show me thy will, O Lord." Get a dream, and then strive to do it.

It seems that more and more preachers are getting out rather than getting in. More and more missionaries are coming home than going to the mission field. More people are



getting out of church than getting into church. Get a dream and then do it!

Do you think that Joseph sat wondering every day, "Lord, when are you going to show me what to do or where to go?" No, he just stayed faithful doing whatever he was supposed to do day by day. When it was God's perfect timing, showed He him "Wait upon the Lord, and He shall renew thy strength." You will mount up with wings as eagles! You will run and not be weary. You will walk and not faint. Let's look at what happened:

Joseph's dream was despised. Joseph was misunderstood by his brothers and even his own dad. His brothers didn't like the way God was leading. Actually, they were so (continued on page14)



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11



Editor's Notes: Our Love Notes is featuring Brad and Deborah Wells, missionaries to Papua New Guinea. We asked them both to tell their love story in their own words, and both are published for you to enjoy.

Te

**Brad:** I had just finished up a late basketball game with my younger brothers and some fellow Bible institute guys. "Brad," Dad called into the hallway as I headed for bed. "Come on into our bedroom for a minute."

My parents were home on their first furlough from Papua New Guinea. It was my last year of Bible Institute, and I had plans to meet them in

PNG a could support Dad a really gentle getting tell yo

12

PNG as soon as I could raise my own support.

Dad always gets really quiet and gentle when he's getting ready to tell you something important. "Brad," Dad slowly began. "Mom and I have

been praying and talking. We have no real reason, but we



just don't feel right about the girl you are courting."

It was a shock. We were talking about getting married that summer. Up to that point, the parents and pastors involved seemed to be for it. A wave of resistance welled up inside of me. Then I slowly formed the word, "Okay." At that moment, God gave me peace & hope that, if I would obey, it would be for my good.

In the weeks that followed, my parents and I began praying earnestly for the wife God might have for me. It wasn't long before I remembered a pretty girl who had helped out in my nursing home ministry some months before. "What about Deborah Marshall?" I asked my dad.

So began a quest to win John Marshall's approval. He hung up on me three times! He would say, "Brad, have you mowed the yard today?" "Yes," "Well, go do it again," & I was left listening to the dial-tone.

The first time Deborah and I were allowed to communicate made it worth all the hurdles. I guess you could say it was "love at first talk." Nothing could stop me from there on out. She was the one for me!

God can be trusted as a matchmaker. He's the Creator, the Engineer, the Designer. He uses different situations to put couples together. Don't try to fit into anyone's mold, but remember: God always uses your chain of authority. Have faith in Him. ••••END OF BRAD'S STORY •••

Read his wife's side of the story on Page 20.

#### (continued from page 11)

backslidden and carnal that they could not recognize it was from the Lord. Joseph's family discouraged him; they made fun of him; they derided him and railed on him; they hated him. His own loving father rebuked him.

Many times our friends and family may not understand, or they may be critical as to why we serve God or are faithful to church. Be devoted to the dream that God has given you anyway.

Hey, we are not to despise the day of small things, and the Bible says not to despise thy youth. What you have to do for God, however big



or small it may seem, is important and important enough that God asked you to do it. So do it with all your might. Let your family and friends answer to God. That would be better than answering you to God for not following through with your God-given dream.

Next, we see a sad thing:..

#### Joseph was derailed from his dream.

His brothers hated him so much that they sold him into slavery. I am sure that Joseph must have thought, "How does this work into your plans, Lord?" We don't know what shall be on the morrow,

14

but God does. If we knew, we would in all likelihood spoil the plan God has for us.

**N**od makes no **J**mistakes. A11 things work together for good. Really, this plight in Joseph's life did not derail him. It was all part of God's perfect plan. God had to get him to Egypt. God could not make a great nation of Israel in Canaan. There were too many barbaric Canaanites (Arabs). They still hate Israel today. God had to get them to a place where they would be protected so they could grow. Joseph didn't know this. It's always best to leave it with an all-knowing, all-wise God.

Joseph may have been stripped of his princely coat, but he was not stripped of his princely character. We need to remember "where God guides, He provides." God blessed him in everything he had to do.

In Genesis 39:3, Joseph's master saw that God was with him. Sometimes others can see more than we can see. Joseph must have surely known that God would never forsake him. The Bible never records where Joseph doubted God or spoke threatening words at God. Joseph rested in God's will and waited a long time, but God finally revealed His perfect plan and boy, was Joseph elated to be in the center of God's will for such a big plan and purpose for his family!

hat seems to he а derailment can he what actually delivers The secret to you. Joseph's life was that he had a life centered around God, not self, circumstances, not not surroundings, not bank accounts. There is more to life than making money. Life is not an outward thing. It is an inward spirit relationship with God on a daily basis.



15



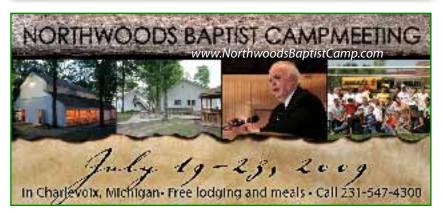
Don't let any thing or any circumstance get in the way of doing what God wants you to do. Broken dreams could derail you.

Let's look at another man similar to Joseph. The Apostle Paul found himself in prison, also. That's where Joseph ended up. He still maintained a true spirit of joy, love and peace. Nothing can ever hurt the man or woman who has given himself/herself to follow God. Our lives are His to control and when things happen, it comes through the hand of God. He permits things to touch our lives to get us to where He can use us.

You see, Joseph had a dream. God had shown him what He was going to do someday. Way back when Joseph was a teenager, God gave him a dream and years later, Joseph would realize the dream.

If you could find what God would have you to do, it will help carry you through the hard times. If you don't know, do right, stay clean and be faithful. He will show you in due time—in His time. You'll see.

Joseph's dream gave him great determination. God helped him along by showing







him His presence. When God gives you something to do and you can feel Him by your side, it gives you the determination to go on and do what He would have you to do. Joseph's determination enabled him to be a blessing not only to Pharaoh's house but to the many others he would help during the famine. Joseph's life moved an entire nation. Had Joseph gotten bitter or had he blamed God for his troubles, his dream may have never come true. He would have missed God's perfect will. He would have missed God's plan for his mate. He would have missed God's plan for his vocation. He would have missed the opportunity to be a blessing to his own family. No, he did right. He had a dream, and he kept it near to his heart.

Tosephwasactuallyin a prison just before God elevated him to the highest position possible in the whole nation, second only to Pharaoh himself. It wasn't politics, popularity, his pastor or his parents that got him out of prison. He was in prison, a nobody. Don't worry about where you are or what you are doing compared to anyone else. God knows where you are. Keep yourself humble, and He will exalt you in due time. He will move you to the place where you can be used

best—to the place where God wants you.

Joseph's dream was fulfilled. God provided for Joseph a wife, children, money, food, raiment, a fabulous home—at the palace, and a job. Everything that a man dreams for, God provided abundantly.

I f you stay clean and faithful, God will provide for you, too. He can use you when He is ready. There is no greater joy in all the world than to see God lead you to do something, and then watch God bless that work. The blessing He bestows is unsearchable and (continued on page 24)



# Thinking About



Editor's Note: Paul and Bethany Green live in Saginaw, Michigan. Paul coaches soccer and teaches at the Christian school at First Baptist Church, Bridgeport, Michigan.

I am very thankful for the opportunity to grow up in a godly, Christian home. My dad was an assistant pastor; my Mom was a stay-at-home mom who also cleaned

other people's houses. We were all quite busy, as every family may be. Of course we had services three times a week plus the other responsibilities around the church. Because our house was right next-door to the church, it was pretty easy to always go and hang out around the church. It was our "other home." I can remember in my early years of working around the church with my dad. He was (and still is) amazing. It seemed to me

that he could do anything. He ran our music program, youth (for a couple years), church maintenance, bus mechanic, Mr. fix it, you name it. If something was broken or needed to be fixed, he was always there getting his hands dirty. Many days I would find myself as a boy working with him around the church, fixing something. He taught me some good life lessons and how to work with my hands, also.

Family time was probably the best time around our home. Because I was the youngest in my family of five, I always had two sisters and two brothers to look out for me—they taught me so much. Just being able to hang out with them was great. I have some great memories with all of them, from learning how to shoot hoops with my brothers, to my sister teaching me how to change her kids' diapers.

In Psalms 128:1 says, "Blessed is everyone that feareth the Lord, that walketh in his ways." Our family was blessed and happy because we put God first in our life. Sure we had difficulties and trials, but we had a mom and a dad who tried their best to be a Christ-like example and fear and love the Lord. The memories I have of my time with my family make me excited about instilling the same godly principles into my children.

(Continued from Page 13) "So, why isn't a pretty girl like you married?"

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The question came from the 23-year-old, 6'2", blue-eyed, curly-headed, preacher-boy-on-his-way-to-the-mission-field. It irked me that he would ask such a question! I, too was 23 and recently broken-hearted from a relationship my father did not have peace about.

I sat in the captain's chair behind the driver's seat. His girlfriend rode shotgun. "How did I get into this one?" I thought. I had skipped Sunday afternoon dinner to help them out with their nursing home ministry. It was a pretty bold question, so I gave him a bold answer, "Why don't you ask God that?" I shot back. The truth was, it had taken every bit of weak faith I had to listen to my father's counsel and remain single at that point. After months of wrestling with my will, I had finally come to see "*Children*, *obey your parents in the Lord for this is right*" in a different light. I was still a child under the authority of my father. If Daddy couldn't put his blessing on a relationship, I had decided that it wasn't worth it.

But now, here was this guy, my age, all of the qualities I thought I wanted in a man—but this blueeyed preacher-boy already had a girlfriend.

I did not have to deal with the situation for long. My father was an evangelist, and we were only ministering at the Treasure Valley Baptist Church in Meridian, Idaho, for Easter Sunday in 1995. We hit the road the following week, and I pretty much forgot about the whole awkward moment.



A few months later, my father casually asked me one day if I remembered a Brad Wells from Idaho. It took a moment, but then it all came flooding back. "He'd like to pursue getting to know you," Dad informed me.

During our first phone call I told Brad, "Court my dad first. If you can convince him you're a good guy, I'll consider it." A couple months later, the Dennis Wells family showed up at a meeting we were holding in Indiana. Slowly, but surely, Brad won my heart. The first spark came during hand-shaking on a Sunday morning.

It took all of seven days for me to realize that this guy was the one. He was good-looking. He was tall. He was called to the mission field, but that wasn't what convinced me. It was much more than physical. As we talked, our hearts knit together, and we found we were one in purpose.That, and the fact that both sets of parents could put their full blessing upon it. Now, after nearly fourteen years and seven children, I can say with more confidence than ever: God's choice is the very best.



and They Happily Ever The



#### Across

- 3. Barbaric Canaanites
- 6. If you have a vision to do something, you will do

7. Dad Green dreamed he was preaching in his

10. Joseph was a blessing to two

11. Joseph may have been stripped of his coat but not his\_\_\_\_\_

- 15. Broken dreams could \_\_\_\_\_ you.
- 16. "Do not despise thy \_\_\_\_\_"
- 17. \_\_\_\_\_ to the ministry of music.
- 18. Jim Green's Joke: "The muffler woke up

#### Down

- 1. "Where there is no \_\_\_\_\_, the people perish."
- 2. The pillow was a giant \_
- 4. Our dreams should not merely be our \_\_\_\_\_, but from God.

5. Dreams chart lives and give a \_\_\_\_\_ to live.

8. God makes no \_\_\_\_\_

9. Joseph's high position in the land - Second only to \_\_\_\_\_

12. Northwoods Baptist Campmeeting has free meals and \_\_\_\_\_

- 13. What kind of lanterns lit the Well's hut?
- 14. Number of Paul Green's siblings while growing
- up



(continued from page 17) unfathomable!

**T**oseph's very own brothers and father did come to him and bow before him. It was the custom for those approaching the ruler to bow. Who would have ever dreamed it would happen this way? God's ways are past our ways. His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. Whatever God does is good. It is perfect. submit to you: Psalm 37:4 "Delight thyself also in the Lord: and He shall give thee

the desires of thine heart." When Joseph was sold into slavery and put into a strange place and a strange country, he had a dream to keep him alive. He had a dream to see his father and to see his homeland. Hey, pilgrim, we are in a strange land. We have a desire to see our Father and to see our homeland. One of these days, we are going to see the Father and to see homeland, but our we will bow to Him instead of He to us.

We'll be in that place called heaven. I am sure God was happy that Joseph stayed faithful. What a joy it will be to look back and see the dreams, the desires, the perfect will of God fulfilled!

God can take broken dreams and put them together again. He can remold and remake and restore your dream.

Be faithful, stay true, stay clean. Search for God's will. Find a dream and watch God fulfill it in your life. •••END•••





Are you surrendered to the Lord? Are you surrendered to do His perfect will? Have you ever thought about surrendering to the ministry of music?

Every church needs a piano player. Every choir leader needs a piano player. Every church and every choir leader need a GOOD piano player!

Are you asked to play because you are all they have? Why not be asked to play because you are the best! Not for your own glory but for God's glory! The Bible tells us to make a joyful noise unto the Lord, but isn't it wonderful when that noise is a beautiful song and not just a noise? An instrument can help us stay on pitch and also lead the singers into beautiful praises to the Lord.

The purpose of this music note is not just to laud the benefits of music in our churches and ministries. Today I want to encourage you to surrender to becoming a good musician so that when the Lord places you in His harvest field somewhere, you will be ready to be used in the field of music.

As a woman, I cannot preach or pastor, but I can be the best piano player I can be. When something becomes a priority, even hours of long practicing can be a blessing.

25

(continued on page 28)

v Terri Green

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17	

Where's	Alfred	Checklist
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- I. Pg
- 2. Pg 7. Pg
- 3. Pg 8. Pa 4. Pg\_\_\_\_
  - 9. Pa
  - 10. Pg





6. Pg



Music Notes (continued from page 25) My parents started me in piano lessons when I was eight. I surrendered my life to the Lord when I was 18.

From that moment on, my prayer was for God to use me somewhere and somehow. When I went to Bible College, I was not allowed to be a music major. I was not good enough. You see, I started lessons when I was eight, but I quit when I was eleven. The college put me on probation and at the end of a long year of hard work, they allowed me to minor in music. It was like going to college with a third grade education. When the Lord gave me a dream of using my music for Him, the next three years were dreams!

Little did I know that the best thing I could do for our ministry today was to train in the field of music when I was younger. My husband preaches, but music is a big part of our ministry. Had I not trained for that, I would be frustrated today trying to do something that I wasn't prepared to do.

Playing an instrument is something that anyone can do. Someone with a vision of learning to play for God at an early age could actually be a great blessing in many ways. A missionary could carry a guitar or an accordion and draw a crowd on a street and then preach to them. Consider the rest homes which need music. I have seen stroke patients who couldn't even talk amaze their family members by singing the words to old hymns.





While you are young and have the time, take those music lessons. Spend more time practicing and learning how to play an instrument. And don't just learn to play, learn how to play well! Surrender today to be a piano player. Surrender to be a **good** piano player. They say "practice makes perfect." I don't know about perfect, but it does makes you better.

Before a lesson, I pray for God to give me wisdom to lead my student, but I also pray that God would let that student learn quickly so that they can play for His honor and His glory. Over the years, God has blessed that request and now I feel like a "great-grandmother" my students' students are now teaching! As the older piano players become unable to play, will the younger people step up to the piano? I beg you to pray about learning to play an instrument so that you will be a blessing to the work of the ministry in the future! •••end•••

# Would you surrender to the mission field of music?



29



#### some

# Contributor's Corner

# investments

## last a

## lifetime...

#### ...some last much, much longer.

#### Thank you to our contributors!

New Hope Baptist Church, WI White Plains Baptist Church, NC Kathy Collingwood Sunday School Class, PA John and Mary Gray, Papua New Guinea Brad and Deborah Wells, PNG Bible Baptist Church, MI Don and Faye Green, MI The Waters, Scotland Harry and Jo Koonts, NC Bob & Donna Anderson, MI Shady Acres Baptist, TX

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#### Dear Reader.

We would like to give a big thank you to all our supporters. A special thank you to Shady Acres Baptist Church for making this entire issue possible. Pastor Danny Farley and his fine people are a Godblessed group. They and many others that contributed will definitely have fruit in glory for their generosity.

We plan to continue printing and mailing this magazine free of charge as God provides. If you don't already support this ministry, you need to. Any amount of support is put totally into the production costs. It would be a great investment on your part to be able to reach out to all 50 states and 19+ foreign countries. This ministry is touching young lives across the globe and is encouraging them to love and serve God and to do His perfect will. May God bless you richly.

> For His Glory, Jim Green, Editor

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