



# The Stidham Story

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**FEBRUARY 2017**



## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MIKE

I am amazed at how the principles from the scripture prove to be of great value in all of our life. They instruct us in our everyday living. We ignore them to our own peril. When we apply them, our lives are richer and better. The words of James especially seem to instruct our lives: "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger."—James 1:19, ESV

The success of a relationship cannot be measured by the lack of conflict. If a couple tells me that they've never had an argument, my inclination is to think that they aren't committed fully to the relationship because it usually means that one or both are passive. They're more committed to avoiding conflict than they are to moving the relationship to a better place. Great relationships learn how to resolve conflict not avoid it.

There are one of two ways that people and organizations can use to deal with conflict. One is much better than the other and I want to encourage you to choose that one over the other. These two ways are known as Advocacy or Inquiry.

In 1961, President John Kennedy and the CIA decided that they needed to take Fidel Castro out of Cuba. There was a lot of discussion about this and they finally decided to plan an invasion at a place called the Bay of Pigs. The result was an unmitigated disaster. It was total foreign policy failure.

Not too long after this, there was another foreign policy situation that was even far more serious. The United States discovered that the Soviet Union had placed missiles in Cuba, just 60 miles offshore. Like the Bay of Pigs situation, there was much discussion and conflict among the Kennedy administration as to what to do. Should they decide to invade Cuba, or should they attempt a blockade? Ultimately, they decided to pursue a blockade and it proved to be the right decision. It was a major foreign policy victory for the US and our national security.

Now, the story behind the story reveals the different approach that the President took to make these decisions. With Bay of Pigs, he used an Advocacy approach. With the Cuba Missile Crisis, he used the Inquiry Approach.

What happened with the Bay of Pigs decision is that President Kennedy had all of the National Security Advisors advocate their position. They argued why they were right. This is the Advocacy approach.

President Kennedy decided to have his advisors use the Inquiry process with the Cuban Missile Crisis. His advisors were asked to argue for the position of the people they disagreed with. The CIA had to argue from the military's point of view. And vice-versa. By inquiring about the other person's position, they came up with the decision to blockade and it was the right decision. In other words, they sought first to understand before being understood.

This is true in all relationships. The next time conflict comes up in your marriage, with your kids, friends, or at work, instead of advocating your position first, attempt to voice the other person's point-of-view first. This will require you to inquire how they see. How would our world be different if everyone used the inquiry method instead of the advocate method?

Because Of Jesus,

Pastor Mike

## **THINGS GOING ON IN THE CHURCH FOR FEBRUARY 2017**

Communion Sunday February 5

Helping Hand Sunday February 5 (Please mark the pew envelope "Helping Hand")

Bible Study Monday Night February 6,13,20,27, 6:30 pm

Bible Study Tuesday Morning February 7,14,21,28, 10:00 am

R.O.C.K. Wednesday Night Ministry Program February 1, 5:30-7:00 pm (Meal furnished)

Choir Practice Wednesday Night February 1,15,22 (no practice February 8)

Ad Council Meeting Tuesday Night February 21, 7:00 pm

Prayer Group– Not meeting the months of January & February due to the weather, but are contacting each other by phone and keeping up on the prayer needs of our congregation. They thank you for your support. Love and Prayers

Parents or Grandparents – The last page of the newsletter is some information on the Church Camps that children may attend during the summer to thrive in their spiritual journey. Abby and Isaac Driscoll have attended the camp and had a wonderful time. You may ask them about it.

### **FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR GROCERY CART EACH MONTH**

JANUARY–CASH DONATIONS

JULY–MACARONI AND CHEESE

FEBRUARY–CANNED MEAT OR TUNA

AUGUST–PAPER PRODUCTS

MARCH–SPAGHETTI SAUCE OR NOODLES  
(NO GLASS JARS)

SEPTEMBER–CASH DONATIONS

APRIL–PAPER PRODUCTS

OCTOBER–PEANUT BUTTER

MAY–CASH DONATIONS

NOVEMBER–SOUP & CRACKERS

JUNE–CANNED FRUIT

DECEMBER–OATMEAL OR CEREAL

### **SALVATION ARMY REPORT FROM THE CHRISTMAS EVE BELL RINGING**

On behalf of the Salvation Army, we want to thank your church for once again ringing the bells for us on Christmas Eve. The amount your church raised was \$2,857.61!!

Sam's Club-\$537.06, Walmart 26 East -\$338.87, Walmart Grocery Entrance- \$1,113.24, Walmart 350 Main Entrance-\$858.44.

Your hard work and generous spirit has helped us to serve over 2,500 adults and children. In addition to the care that is provided through our social services, food pantry and emergency shelter.

We thank you for partnering with us, and hope to work with you again next Christmas.

Blessings to you all,

Dave Webb, Steven Dahl, Lieutenant and Audrey Schneider, Envoy Corps Program Director

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**FEBRUARY 2017**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**



- |                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1- Henry Hoffman     | 20- Melissa VanderBok-Wheeler |
| 4 - Larry Henderson  | 23- Mike Helms                |
| 5- Dennis Hockstra   | 27- Josh Morlan               |
| 7- Jane Hand         | 29- Kevin Fry                 |
| 16- Carolyn Hockstra |                               |
| Cheryl Parker        |                               |
| 19- Alissa Morlan    |                               |
| Jane Lutgen          |                               |
| Travis Baugh         |                               |

- 16- Jim & Susan Walters
- 25- Bryan & Denice Hoffman
- 29- Kevin & Kathy Fry

## **PRAYER LIST**

Dear Heavenly Father,

We ask that you be with all that are on our prayer list, those who are going through health, issues, personal struggles, and other worries they may have. Let us show our faith and our love to one another each and every day. Amen

Opal Kuhl & Family, Betty Greene & Family, Frank Airhood Family, Mary Ezra, Barbara Lawson, Bonnie Watts & Family, Ray Coogle, Marjorie McGlothlin, Bud Dillon, Deloris Findlay, Sue & Mike Biery, Jean Biera, Don & Jan Plantenga, Jane Vandeventer, Tom Sosbe. Pat Baugh, Mary Bulter, Bill Sullivan, Don Kelly, Millie Vonstein, Al Cummins, Lucy Keller, Patricia Tooley, Sandy Kukman, George & Doris Carlton, Karen Fridlin, Our Military and Our World Leaders and those who are prayed for silently.



### **A NOTE FROM BONNIE WATTS AND FAMILY**

Thank you to all for the prayers, cards, flowers, dinner and all your support in our time of need.

Your kindness was greatly appreciated.

Blessings to all,

Bonnie & Family



The shortest month of the year is February. There is a lot of activity packed into these twenty-eight days. My calendar for February has penciled in an appointment at my doctor's office, a three-month checkup. The dentist sent me a reminder card to post a dental check-up this month. I have three birthdays to celebrate with my family. Valentine's Day comes on the fourteenth. The federal government combined the celebration of Washington's birthday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Lincoln's on the 12<sup>th</sup>. This year President's Day is on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The post office gets a day off. Groundhog Day begins the month's special days on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. We began seeing reminders of Valentine's day as soon as we turned over the calendar to 2017.

I hope you have someone to receive a Valentine. This is the day for 'I love you' on heart shaped candy mints. Maybe a box in the shape of a heart full of delicious candy for special people in your life. There are many anonymous ways to spread 'I love you's' throughout the day. Send a Valentine to someone overseas in the military, visit a nursing home and leave them in the room or on the door of each patient. Take a greeting to a shut-in you know. Valentines have entered the world of coloring books. On my last trip to the grocery store I saw packets of cards that had pictures to be colored by the recipient. They would appeal to old and young.

Busy people don't have much time to soothe the hearts of lonely people that don't have anyone to care about them. The thought of a nursing home visit is not exciting but it is rewarding. I spoke with a lady, the mother of many children, this past week. Her family is grown now but she still shares her time with others. She told me of an elderly lady that lives alone. This woman has no car, her son comes once a week to take her grocery shopping. She is not strong enough to venture out alone. There is no bus service available. The

meal together, and she says that this older woman is like a mom to her.

Telephone messages are another avenue of communication. I don't get to see my sister very often. We talk on the phone. Sometimes more often than others. It depends if we remember something we want to share. My brother recently lost his soulmate of sixty-nine years. She was in a nursing home for five years and everyday he went to be with her. Now he needs to fill that time with something else. I have invited him to be a part of my family's Tuesday evening dinners. He will need transportation until the days are longer. He does not drive at night. He is 93. The days can become long and empty. I want him to feel wanted and needed. To me this makes a fuller and richer life.

Jesus dwelt a great deal of his ministry telling us to love each other. He assured us that it is the way to a happy, healthy, fulfilled life here on earth. I strive to look for the good inside and to understand the dark actions that some of the people I know seem to let capture their lives. Many times, there is an answer to unpleasant encounter, caused from many years ago. Unconsciously we let past experiences shape our lives.

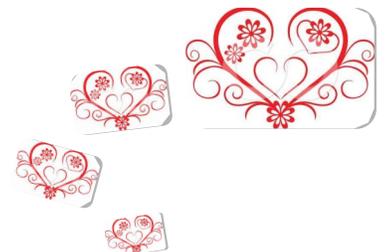
Let's Love and Live for Jesus. Read scripture, especially the book of 1 John 4:7-21. I find twenty-four references to love. I'm sure there are more. This reading either speaks of God's love for us or is encouraging us to love each other. In verse 19 we are told "we love because he first loved us".

Think of Valentine's Day as a  
**'GIANT'**  
love affair with Jesus.

Have a good month!

Love and prayers,

Betty Greene



## THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

Today I will not hesitate to share the good news.

God can use my helping hand to guide others.

In times of spiritual drought, God can fill me with hope.

Our acts of compassion shine God's love into the world.

## *JESUS IS THE GREATEST VALENTINE*

*His love will never cease to be,  
His love is bigger than the world;  
I'm so glad Jesus loves me.*

*His heart is bigger than the sea  
And He always fills my heart with joy;  
I'm so glad Jesus loves me.*

*Yes He is the greatest Valentine;  
I will rejoice eternally.  
I will lift my voice with all my heart;  
I am so glad that Jesus loves me.*

