

Kerrville Daily Times

FAITH

Religious insight

Going behind the gates

Jesus wants more for us than we want for ourselves

In 1964, Roald Dahl published his famous children's book called "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

In the story, the chocolate maker Willy Wonka announces that he will open the doors of his chocolate factory to five golden ticket winners and their families.

A frenzy of chocolate bar buying ensues, as everyone vies to procure the golden tickets hidden in the wrappers that will grant them entry behind the gates of the chocolate factory.

As the golden ticket winners are revealed, they don't realize that they have won more than they know. Not will they be let inside the factory, but one of them will be chosen to own it.

What looks to be a tour turns out to be a test as the plot shifts from seeing the inside of the mysterious factory to, in a sense, seeing the inside of the people allowed inside.

It changes from a story about who has won entry into the factory to a story about who is worthy to possess it. Much of what ensues is by turns comic, tragic and grim.

One winner called Augustus Gloop proves to be such a glutton for chocolate that he tries to drink the entire hot chocolate river only to fall in and be sucked away into a pipe, never to be seen again.

Another child, Violet Beauregarde, despite being warned of the dangers, grabs an experimental piece of gum, chews it, and is transmogrified into a giant blueberry.

A spoiled little girl named Veruca Salt becomes obsessed with a battalion of squirrels tasked to judge the quality of the nuts used in Wonka's candy, demanding that he sell her one.

After being informed they're not for sale, she breaks into the nut room and is pinned down by the squirrels, judged a "bad nut," and tossed into the incinerator.

A television-obsessed boy named Mike Teavee becomes fascinated with a shrinking technology used to transport chocolate and places himself in front of it like an actor before a television camera, being shrunk to a fraction of his size.

Wonka sends him to the stretching room where they attempt to stretch him back to normal.

In the end, the humble Charlie Bucket, who feels he doesn't even deserves to be there survives and becomes heir to the factory.

There is a crucial place at about the halfway point in gospel of Mark where Jesus takes His disciples "behind the gates" of His person and work.

Up to this point, the narrative of the gospel has been driven largely by the question of "Who is Jesus?" As He teaches, heals, and performs miracles.

But as they follow Him, He begins to tell them plainly that He must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the



John Standridge

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The Coming King Foundation elects new trustees



Local attraction looks toward the future with new plans and new trustees

By **Mary Freeman**
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The Coming King Foundation, a local tourist attraction that draws visitors to a rocky hill overlooking Kerrville, recently elected new leadership and established expanded goals for the future.

The foundation is planning to build a 24.5 acre Christian art park called The Coming King Sculpture Prayer Garden at the main entrance of this new Hill Country community landmark.

The organization is guided by 14 volunteer trustees, and the new members, Kathy Lyles, Linda Forse, Weldon Baker, Becky Flowers and Barbara Sullivan, join Johnny Sharp, Carol and Richard Reinhard, Louada Raschke, Jack Turner, Javier Campos, Karl Jack, Lisa Corbin-Scarpa, Max and Sherry Greiner as well as part-time staff, Nancy Redhead and Debby Meszaros, in guiding this organization.

The trustees and volunteers include people from all walks of life and professions: artists, designers, gardeners, business people, teachers, doctors, nurses, pastors and evangelists.

The goals for this year include installing "Dark Sky LED lights across the top of the garden, building handicap accessible parking lots, and installing a park style, public restroom.

The Coming King Sculptural Prayer Garden is located at the same latitude as Israel and more than hundred thousand people are expected to visit this free attraction during 2016.

Open 365 days a year, the non-denominational Christian art garden and has drawn visitors from all 50 states and at least 42 countries.

Max and Sherry Greiner, founders of the Coming King Foundation, unveil some of their latest pieces of art in this 2015 file photo at the base of two pieces of Max Griener's art. The "Empty Cross" was the first large-scale, permanent piece to be displayed in Kerrville.

About The Coming King Foundation

➤ **Who:** The Coming King foundation is a nonprofit, 501c3 faith-based art museum, formed with a goal to build spiritual sculpture gardens across the U.S. and the world.

➤ **What:** The 24.5 acre art park is the only place in the world where the 77 foot seven inch contemporary sculpture called "The Empty Cross" can be seen. According to its supporters, it is the most symbolic cross sculpture in the world. In addition, seven other monumental sculptures can also be viewed at this location and it is the only place where all of Greiner's monumental sculptures are displayed in one location.

➤ **When:** The free garden is open from 7 a.m. until midnight, 365 days a year.

➤ **Where:** 520 Benson Drive, Kerrville

➤ **For information:** Call 928-7774 or visit www.thecominkingfoundation.org

Times file photo

If you need an upgrade in life, don't settle for the status quo

In my journey of walking with God, I have discovered He is always leading me to a better place in life with him or an upgrade in my relationship with him.

He takes great delight in allowing opportunities to be conformed to his image.

He is a very relational God and every circumstance, good or bad, can lead us to a closer relationship with him. We always have room to grow in any area of our lives.

He loves us so much he wants the best for us and loves the process in our



Kathleen Maxwell-Rambie

everyday lives.

About six months ago, my printer at work began to act up. It still worked, but the scanner only worked right about half of the time.

It was frustrating, but I put up with it's malfunction, simply because I didn't want to deal with packing it up and returning it.

Finally, I had enough and took the time to return the printer.

Much to my surprise, the item had been upgraded since I purchased the original one.

The new upgraded version of my printer was so much better than what I had before.

In the printer situation, I saw that I was comfortable with a malfunctioning printer when there was a much better version available.

To get the better version took some of my time and, of course, there was a little bit of adjustment time to the new one.

Upgrade means to move to a higher standard, improve something, or raise to a higher grade or rank.

There was a much better version of what I had. It is like that in our relationship with God.

We are dealing with a God who is always joyful, kind and loves to expand us.

Oftentimes, I've seen him put me in situations that are beyond what I can

handle, but I find, it is because he sees my potential and wants our relationship to grow even deeper.

Everything with God is relational.

When I survey a situation, I begin with thanking God for where he has me, even if I don't like the situation.

Overcoming, to get the better of a situation, begins with thanksgiving.

II Corinthians 2:14 states, "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ." (NIV)

When I read that passage recently, I began to pray, "Lord, I thank you for this situation and look to you to lead me to triumph."

He is committed to leading us upward in

life and I think thanksgiving is the key.

As I walked with God, daily seeking him on what to say and do in this situation, I grew in walking in peace, waiting on him, trusting him and watching him work the situation out much better than I ever expected.

"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son," Romans 8:29.

Although He stays the same, God loves us being changed into the likeness of Jesus.

Life presents us many opportunities to change and get an upgrade, a better version of us. Life and Jesus are not separate, and

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Event

Notre Dame plans two events

The Women of Notre Dame, at Notre Dame Catholic Church, 909 Main St., are currently accepting Father's Day Memorials. A special Memorial Mass will be said on June 26 at the 11 a.m. Mass.

Names will be published in the weekly bulletin. Envelopes for donations are located in the back of the church in the narthex and donations may be placed in the collection basket or dropped off at the Pastoral Center. Deadline for intentions is June 19. Call 257-5961 for more information. Also, the church invites Masses parishioners to join them in saying goodbye to Father Scott. There will be a simple reception after each of the Masses Saturday and Sunday.

Event

First Presbyterian church explores the Book of Acts

Beginning June 5, adults will come together in Ryan Hall at First Presbyterian Church, 800 Jefferson St., at 9:45 a.m. to study the Book of Acts. A vast array of teachers will lead us through the exciting acts of the early church.

Celebrating Pentecost this Sunday and hear about the beginning of the Church, make plans to hear about what happens next in the Book of Acts. July 31, enjoy the privilege of hearing about the youth ministry trips from the youth themselves.