

**Believing in God’s Promises Creates a Reality Gap**

Although God prepared Abram and Sarai to hear his call, and then called them to become a great nation through which blessing would come to all the nations. For a long time all that distinguished them from their neighbors was the promise of God. There was no halo of glory surrounding their camels as they traveled from Haran to Canaan; nor was there a pillar of cloud and fire to lead them, as Israel had coming out of Egypt. At a time when many other people were traversing the Near East, they appear to be just another group of travelers. Only the promise of God marked them out as different.

It’s the same way today, isn’t it? What marks you out from your non-Christian neighbors? You’re not smarter than they are; you’re not richer; you’re not better looking or healthier. You experience many of the same kinds of problems and crises that they do. If you’re a Christian, you know that God is working in you and through you to achieve his purposes in the world. If you’re a Christian, you know that “for those who love God all things work together for good” (Romans 8:28).

It is precisely the existence of such promises that makes the experience of the reality gap so intense. For the non-Christian, there is logically no reality gap. His or her life may be going well or it may not, but either way it has no meaning. If one is simply a chance collocation of atoms, there is no reason why one’s life should go well or why one’s sufferings should have any significance. There is no promise that the non-Christian can claim. He or she is left simply hoping against hope that everything will turn out all right in the end, whatever “right” is. The Christian, however, is different. He or she knows that God is in control of all things and that, even if all appearances are to the contrary, God has a plan in which all things heaven and under heaven will work out for his glory and our good. It is precisely our faith that creates the reality gap when we don’t understand how particular trials or circumstances will work out.

~Iain Duguid, Living in the Gap Between Promise and Reality, p. 7-8.

**THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER:**

Today, January 26:	9:00 am	Sunday School
	9:55 am	Fellowship Time
	10:30 am	Morning Worship
	4:45 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
	6:00 pm	Prayer Meeting
Tuesday, January 28:	9:30 am	Women’s Bible Study
	6:00 pm	Men’s Bible Study @ Ed Payne’s
Wednesday, January 29:	12:00 pm	Men’s Bible Study Lunch
	5:30 pm	Catechizers
	7:00 pm	Evening Bible Study
Thursday, January 30:	9:30 am	Prayer Meeting
Friday, January 31:	9:30 am	Jeanne’s Sewing Class

Tonight at 6:00 pm there will be a church-wide **Prayer Meeting** in the fellowship hall.

Please pray for these Westminster families this week: **Bobby and Mary Thomas, Nicolas, Bobby III, Katherine, Gordon and Rachel, Irene and Abigail Hollinhead**

The **Thursday Prayer Meeting** that usually meets on the third Thursday of the month will now be **meeting weekly** on Thursday mornings from 9:30-10:30 am at the church.

If you are visiting with us, we would like to have the opportunity to get to know you better. Please fill out the **visitor’s card** in the pew in front of you and just drop it in the offering plate.

If you have a **prayer request** that you feel should go out on the Prayer Chain, first call the church office (706-863-8978), then Linda Fowler (706-836-6462) or Sandra Inouye (706-589-5069). Your request may need to be condensed because of time restraints, but the most important information will be sent out as soon as we possibly can.

Please use the **yellow cards** in the pew racks to submit any prayer concerns you may have. Just place the cards in the offering plate. They will be handled confidentially and prayed for by a committed group of intercessors.

The **monthly budget report** for December can be found on the small table in the narthex. If you have any questions, please see Gary Mullen, Dan Nielsen, or Rick Harmer.

**Children’s Workers:**

Jan 26: Nursery – *Karrie Harmer* Toddlers – *Mary Thomas*  
Children’s Church – *Jessica Karius*  
Feb. 2: Nursery – *Jessica Karius* Toddlers – *Wanda Miller* CC – *Karrie Harmer*

**Diaconate Duty:**

January – *Randy Waters* February – *Jim Finlay*