



MAY 2022

# Newsletter



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## What a Character! by Brandon Lenhart

The ancient Greek philosopher, Plutarch, wrote: "Character is simply long habit continued." If that is true, then character traits are simply the manifestations of a person's true character. Character traits can be either positive or negative. The way a person reacts to various situations and circumstances draws these characteristics out for better or worse. Some positive examples are: self-control, patience, and resilience. And, here's a list of not-so-good character traits: unfaithful, jealous, and impatient.

The Bible is full of examples of men and women whose character is often defined by the pressures and/or temptations placed upon them. How they respond to situations is indicative of what they have hidden within. For the famed Israelite king, David, his character was defined by being a "man after GOD's own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22).

How was David's character such that he was esteemed as a man after GOD's own heart? There are several indicators that seem to point to this. The first was that David was faithful. As a shepherd in the household of Jesse (his father), David would have necessarily been trustworthy and hardworking to have been entrusted with the responsibility of tending the sheep. A shepherd's livelihood was the protection of the sheep from bandits, robbers, predators, and the like. David would have necessarily exhibited trustworthiness.

Another characteristic that David would have exhibited was courage. Not only as a shepherd but also as a young man, David always seemed ready for whatever challenge he faced, whether big or small. The story of Jesse sending David to Saul's camp with food for David's brothers is one such example of David's courage.

David's arrival at the battlefield in 1 Samuel 17, as the Israelites are facing the Philistines in battle stands as one of the greatest examples of courage known in Scripture. For days the great Philistine warrior, Goliath, had been taunting Saul and his men. However, when David arrived, after hearing Goliath's jeers, he was infused with righteous indignation to confront the ungodly Philistine. David's courage and belief in GOD drove him to bravely defeat Goliath in a one-on-one match with just a sling and a stone.

David's actions weren't always righteous, however. We know the story of Bathsheba and Uriah in 2 Samuel 11-12, was one of the great blunders of the so-called "man after GOD's own heart. The adulterous affair with Bathsheba, and the murder of Uriah, would mark David for the rest of his life with troubles that would follow him to his grave. But even in this great tragedy, David proved to be a man aligned with GOD's purposes through repentance and brokenness over his sin.

When confronted by the prophet Nathan, David humbled himself in repentance. The character trait of humility would be the defining characteristic of David's life. Rather than rebuke Nathan, or turn into a bitter, hateful man, David softened and submitted to the consequences of his actions. Rather than continue to spiral out of control when confronted with his sin, the way King Saul had done, David accepts responsibility for his actions and is willing to accept whatever punishment that GOD pours out.

He willingly accepted the death of the child conceived in the adulterous affair and lived in humble regret for the rest of his life. In fact, Psalm 51 is the best example of repentance in the Bible. David writes, "I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say and your judgment against me is just."

David recognizes there is no one else to blame but himself. He realizes that GOD is more than justified to strike him down for what he's done. But he pleads for GOD's mercy and forgiveness. He pleads for salvation and redemption, for he knows that only GOD can give it. David also recognizes that a mere animal sacrifice cannot atone for the sin that he has committed as he writes, "You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O GOD." This very fact and his broken and repentant heart is what made David a man after GOD's own heart. This character trait is what set David apart.

What character trait sets you apart from all others? Would you like to be called a man/woman after GOD's own heart? It doesn't take perfection; it takes humility and repentance. It takes courage and faithfulness. It takes persistent patience and a willingness to surrender everything to GOD. Are you willing?



## GUATEMALA MISSIONS TRIP

Save the date! We will be having an informational meeting for those interested in going on the Guatemala Mission Trip following the Connection luncheon on June 5th.

The Missions Trip will be 1 week.

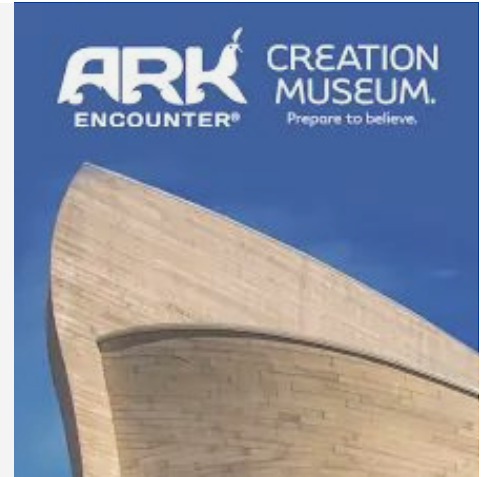
Dates: 1/7/2023 – 1/14/2023

## DRIVEN YOUTH MISSIONS TRIP

Driven Youth (Grades 6-12) will be going to Louisville Kentucky from July 1st - July 8th along with YouthWorks.

On the way down they will be stopping at the Ark Encounter & Creation Museum and Kings Island.

If you haven't registered yet please do so by May 8th to [BJH@northmaincog.org](mailto:BJH@northmaincog.org)



Go and Make Disciples(Go) – The final, but cyclical, process of discipleship is the element of ongoing ministry and service, which drives followers of Christ to step into the fullness of their God-given abilities and giftedness for the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Completely committed followers of Christ find it a privilege to get involved in ministry that connects the unchurched to Christ. They strive to plug in where they are gifted and take seriously the mandate to Go and make disciples of all people.

MAY 2022

patience

character traits

May 1 Sermon Title: Self-Controlled Patience (Psalm 4; Proverbs 16:32)

Key Point: "Don't sin by letting anger control you."

May 8 Sermon Title: Trusting Patience (Psalm 22:1-31)

Key Point: "In the midst of sorrow, GOD can be trusted."

May 15 Sermon Title: Courageous Patience (Psalm 27)

Key Point: "Wait patiently for the LORD. Be brave and courageous."

May 22 Sermon Title: Patience that Leads to Rest (Psalm 127)

Key Point: "GOD gives rest to those He loves."

May 29 Sermon Title: Wise Patience (Proverbs 9:1-12)

Key Point: "The wise person has the benefit of good judgment."

## CHILDREN OF PROMISE

A big thank you to all who stepped up and supported either through in-kind donation or through child sponsorship. We met our goal of 'Making Wholeness Possible' for 7 new children from around the world. Praise Jesus!!

We want to encourage everyone to be praying specifically for these children, their families, the countries they live in, for CoP, and all who work or volunteer for them!

We currently have 2 Tanzanian children being sponsored by people at North Main and are excited to see if Rachel Wilson will get to meet both of them on her trip to Tanzania this June where she will be interviewing children already in the Sponsorship Program! There are options available for anyone to travel with CoP to further His Kingdom. You would learn what God is doing in these children's lives and could possibly get to meet your sponsored child!

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Laura Link or Rachel Wilson.

**Please don't forget to write to your child/children!!**

**[www.childrenofpromise.global/write](http://www.childrenofpromise.global/write)**

You can do this as often as you like! It means the world to them.





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Congratulations to all of our High School & College Graduates! We will be celebrating our 2022 Graduates during the Sunday service on June 5th. Please complete the informational form available at the Welcome Center, Church office, or website

**northmaincog.org/graduate**

by Sunday, May 29th with the requested information so we can honor them.

**North Main exists to:**  
Develop completely committed followers of Christ who..

**KNOW** Christ intimately  
**GROW** in Christ continually  
**GO** for Christ daily

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 Mon-Thu 9am-4pm



YOU'RE INVITED  
— FOR —  
**LUNCH**



**Connection Luncheon**  
**Sunday, May 1st**  
**12:00 pm**

**On the Menu:**  
**Hamburgers**  
**Homemade Potato Salad**  
**Mac & Cheese**  
**Dessert**

Cost: \$6/adult, \$4/kid and max of \$20/family.  
Invite a friend to North Main, newcomers eat for free!