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Homesteader - September 23, 2014



### The Water Tower on the Prairie...

by Rev. Steve Frazier, Fairbury & Steele City

*Recently at a session meeting I (Doc) had occasion to talk about the meaning of our term 'Ruling Elder'. I appreciate Pastor Steve's article. As we all are the water tower for the community, our Ruling Elders are the water tower for their congregation.*

I went back home recently. I was shocked at how different Virginia looked to me after almost eight years in Nebraska. You can't see very far in Virginia unless you're on top of a mountain where all of the trees have been cut down. But when I ride my bike on the county roads north of Fairbury I can always see where I am. I just look for the water tower. If I ever got lost I would just ride straight for Jeff and the water tower.

It's hard to get lost if you have a landmark like that. And that's what Jesus means when He tells His disciples, "You're the world's light. It's impossible to hide a town built on top of a hill. People don't light a lamp and put it under a bucket. They put it on a lamp-stand, and it gives light for everybody in the house." (Matthew 5:14-15-Phillips Modern English) But the world has lots of people who don't appear to have a city on a hill or light to guide them. It doesn't look like they're sure where they are or where they're going. It looks like they have a tough time making good choices. The Bible calls that living in the dark. That is how some people end up lost and stay that way.

## HOMESTEAD PRESBYTERY EVENTS



### FALL RETREAT FOR WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Theme: *FEED MY SHEEP*

**When:** Saturday, October 11

**Registration begins:** 9:00 a.m.

**Program:** 9:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. Childcare provided

**Where:** Wahoo First Presbyterian Church  
981 W. 15<sup>th</sup> St. Wahoo, NE  
(phone 402-443-4220)

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FUNDRAISER

Sunday, October 5th - 5:00 to 7:00 pm  
The PW of Fourth Presbyterian Church (5200 Francis, Lincoln) invite you to a Spaghetti Supper in support of the Habitat for Humanity PresbyBuild.

\*Spaghetti for just \$5.00 a plate (age 5 and under free) and a craft table with homemade craft items for sale. All funds raised will go to the PresbyBuild.

\*They will also have a stud for the build available for you to add your wishes for the family of this home. This stud will be incorporated into the house.

And so Jesus tells His disciples, "Let your light shine in the sight of everyone. Let them see the good things that you're doing and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16-Phillips Modern English) Put another way, Jesus is saying, "I want you to be obvious. Be a light for everyone that is in the dark, lost, and trying to find their way home to God." Two thousand years have passed. Now that is our job description. Be the light of the world. Be obvious. Be easy to see. Help people figure out where they are. Help them find their way home to God. But in spite of that there are still lots of ways that we can end up in the dark. Drinking too much. Turning our backs on marriage. Ignoring our families. Not raising our children to love Jesus. Skipping worship. Not praying. Not paying attention to the Bible. Being selfish. Hurting someone by saying the first thing that comes to mind. That's living in the dark. What kind of life is that? That is why living the faith we confess is one of the most effective and helpful ministries we will ever take on. It's so simple we may worry, "Maybe I'm not getting it. Maybe I'm not getting what Jesus is talking about."

But it is that simple. A living faith is a bright light. And it is a great sermon. A living faith is a dazzling light. And it is a great Bible lesson. A living faith is a wonderful invitation to meet Jesus. That kind of living example is the life God created us for. It is the life Jesus wants us to live. That is why He said, "Be a city on a hill that people can't help seeing." And when we love Jesus enough to be a good example and a bright light, we end up loving God's people, too.

So we are literally a church on top of a hill. But we're also the city on a hill that Jesus is talking about. At our best, we're the kind of church and the kind of Christians that are a light in the dark. But I like this image even more: we're a water tower on the prairie. Being an easy-to-see landmark for people who are trying to find their way home to God-that is our job. So be Jesus' disciples. Live a beautiful, disciplined life. Do that and you will end up being the water tower that shows people the way home. Go ahead, be a water tower with Jesus painted all over it. That is everyday Christian living and leadership at its simplest and best.



### **BUILDING SKILLS WORKSHOP - HOW TO MARKET YOUR CHURCH**

What's happening in your congregation? How do you market your church to your members and the community? This series of workshops is designed to enhance communication skills to market your congregation. There are now 2 options to attend! [Register](#)

Tuesday Evening, September 23, 5:45 - 9 PM at Good Shepherd PC in Lincoln (84th and Van Dorn) \$10 - includes take home materials

\*Wednesday Day, September 24, 2014, 9:30 AM - 3 PM at Good Shepherd PC in Lincoln (84th and Van Dorn) \$15 - includes lunch and take home materials



**Scotland**  
May 20 - 28, 2016  
approximately \$3,996.00 from Omaha per person

**Ireland Extension**  
May 28 - June 1, 2016  
approximately \$1,348.00 per person  
\$1,148.00 Ground Only (you would make your own flight arrangements)

**Blessing Opportunity** 2 Corinthians 9:7-8



Make a donation to the [Habitat for Humanity - Presby Build](#)

Make a pledge of time or resources to the [Habitat for Humanity - Presby Build](#)

### Keep Thinking...

If the church is to impart to the world a message of hope and love, of faith, justice, and peace, something of this should become visible, audible, and tangible in the church itself.

-David Bosch

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