

Grounded in Grace Spring 2016

We Welcome Christopher Samuel into the World The Delight of God's Provision

Five years ago, Krista and I went on a journey to have a family. We met with a fertility doctor. Krista had surgery. We went through a period of fertility treatments. Everything we did was unsuccessful. We grieved and mourned our loss.

God's providence was clear- we were called to adopt. Then we walked through a very extensive and hard adoption process which resulted in our incredible daughter Zoe Grace.

But God was not done with us yet. Krista and I always desired two children but because of infertility issues and our ages, we were content with our family- me, Krista, Zoe Grace, and of course Bry- Bry (our collie).

After Zoe Grace was born, we mentioned to the birth parents (Hannah and Joe) that if they ever had another child and were not in the position to care for Zoe's biological sibling, we would be open to adopting him/her as well. We never really thought it would come to pass. However, in the beginning of November, Hannah was seven months pregnant and decided she would like for us to adopt her little boy. So on January 22, 2016, God blessed us with a son, Christopher Samuel.

God is so full of mystery and grace. A once infertile couple who dreamed of having two children were blessed with two children from an incredibly courageous couple. A once childless couple experienced the power of adoption on an incredible and deep level. A once content family who learned to be content becomes full of God's blessing as He moved in redemption of their story. Never forget that God's movements are a mystery. His plan is to move us toward maturity so we can experience the power of his love for eternity. Remember- you are his beloved!



Steve

Steve Benson's
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Hours: Tuesday and Thursday
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Upcoming Seminars

*Mauldin United Methodist Church Holy Week Service—
March 23rd— 12:00*

*The King and His Kingdom:
Healing the Emotional and Spiritual Dynamics of the Addicted Family
April 22nd— 1:00-5:00 pm
Asheville, North Carolina*



This seminar will explore the emotional and spiritual dynamics of addiction from a Christian perspective. We will explore the emotional cycle and relational structure of addiction. We will learn ways to heal our relationship with self, others, and God through principles of forgiveness, reconciliation, and rebuilding trust.

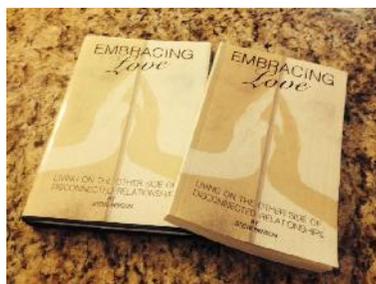
<http://www.apnc.org/2016-spring-conference/>

*River Life Wellness Center— May 18th— 7:00-9:00pm
Redeeming Conflict: Coming to the Table
Mooresville, North Carolina*



This seminar will explore principles of conflict resolution by understanding seven different kinds of conflict, principles of redeeming brokenness, and steps one takes to solve every day problems. We will also explore forgiveness and principles of reconciliation.

<http://www.riverlifefellowship.com/>



Embracing Love: Living on the Other side of Disconnected Relationships is available on Amazon or you can order it from Barnes and Noble Book store.

<http://www.amazon.com/Embracing-Love-Living-Disconnected-Relationships>



In love he predestined us¹ for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.
Ephesians 1:5

TREASURE IN LOSING

By Steve Benson

There is a much treasure in losing. Whether it is losing in a complicated conflict, losing a relationship, or losing a game, goal or dream, there is a unique treasure given to those who lose. When we lose, we discover the intricacies of grace on a deeper level. When we are not able to obtain a goal, we gain a deeper sense of humility. And when we cannot live out a dream, we grow in our character to handle the adversities of life. Those who have lost little live in little treasures. Those who have lost much live in the abundance of treasure never obtained by human hands.



Sometimes you must lose to win. And when you are in a battle that cannot be won in the moment, you can wave the white flag knowing your conscience and spirit are the only things that matter in the darkness of the night. If you can lay your head down on the pillow of contentment, fall asleep in joy of service to the truth, and allow the breeze of His Spirit soothe your soul, then you have really, really won. Because those who manipulate the truth chain themselves to the prison of deception, lie on the cold floor of cover up, and have insomnia to being exposed, all while living in the illusion of freedom. For truth will set you free in the moment and eventually truth will be uncovered in the end. So for those who are wrestling, rest in the truth.

Those who have lost much live in the abundance of treasure never obtained by human hands.

(From Embracing Love- Living on the Other Side of Disconnected Relationships Pages 243-244, West Bow Press © 2015)