

Peniel Postings

PENIEL HOLINESS CAMP · CONNEAUTVILLE, PA



So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." - Genesis 32:30

THE PATH OF TOTALITY

President's Message by Dan Segool



Hello Peniel Campers! I hope you have been having a great offseason. You and our hopes and dreams for Peniel are never far from my heart! Because of this, I often see things in the world that remind me of Peniel. That's where the title of our article comes from. I'm guessing that many of you have already heard this phrase. If you

haven't yet heard it, you will very soon.

On April 8, a solar eclipse will occur. This means that the moon will come directly into the path of the sun, temporarily "blocking" out the sunlight. The eclipse will occur over a swath of North America starting in Mexico and continuing right through the heartland of America. Cities such as Dallas, Paduch (for all our Kentucky Friends), Cleveland, Erie, and Buffalo are all in the path of totality. This means that the eclipse will be total - for a few minutes in the middle of day, it will be completely dark.

Guess where else the eclipse will be visible? You're so smart; you knew it was Peniel! At about 2 p.m., things will start to dim at Peniel, and the temperature will begin to drop. At 3:15 p.m., it will be completely dark at camp for a few minutes and then things will slowly brighten and warm up until normal daylight returns. I've been reading that hotels throughout the region are already booked up. Cleveland expects perhaps 100,000+ visitors that day. Weather permitting, I'm planning to be at Peniel that day! Let's hope it's not a cloudy day!

The obvious tie in for the Solar Eclipse is that it goes right over the camp, but as I thought more about it, I realized that there is more to it. I began to look at a recent camp theme, as well as our newly announced theme for this year:

2022: "ALL OR NOTHING" - This was based on the familiar scripture verse from Deuteronomy 6:5. "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

As Christians, we are called to walk in a Path of Totality with Jesus, loving him with ALL our heart, ALL our soul, and ALL our strength! Jesus isn't looking for lukewarm followers. We need to be ALL IN. That was such an appropriate theme for Peniel because I believe that is what we have taught for over 127 years now.

2024: "LIGHT OF THE WORLD" - We associate Jesus with light, not darkness. But, Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:14 that "You are the LIGHT OF THE WORLD. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden...let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

There's a lot of darkness in our world, but when it is very dark, even a very small light can be seen from a long distance. Light penetrates darkness. Jesus explains that he wants us to be His agents of light in this world.

If the total eclipse occurs in your locality, I would encourage you to safely observe it with solar eclipse glasses. The next eclipse of this type in the Great Lakes area won't happen until 2099, so I'm thinking I don't want to miss this one. Who knows what I'll be doing in 2099? When you watch it, make sure to remember that we can, through the power of the Holy Spirit, walk a life of totality for Jesus who also enables us to shine His light for the benefit of all mankind. Our next publication will be our camp brochure, which will be issued in May. Until then, keep looking upward!

NOTE: NASA has great information on the Eclipse, just check out <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/>

NEWS FLASH:

The Peniel campus will be open on Monday, April 8 for viewing of the Solar Eclipse. A luncheon will be served and **RESERVATIONS are REQUIRED!** Check out Peniel social media or email president@penielholinesscamp.com for details.

PENIEL HOLINESS CAMP INFORMATION

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IMPORTANT DATES 2024

Work Days

Saturday, May 4

Saturday, May 18

Saturday, June 1

Friday/Saturday, June 21-22

Friday/Saturday, July 12-13

128th Annual Encampment

Thursday, July 18 through
Sunday, July 28

PENIEL ANNOUNCES 2024 THEME

In February, Peniel announced it's 2024 campmeeting theme at the Youth Retreat held at Venture Church - Boardman.

The world was cast in darkness since the fall of man with no hope of salvation. But God sent the Light into the world so that we may have life. In His Light, we too are called the Light of the World and are called to shine His Light into the darkness.

"You are the LIGHT OF THE WORLD. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." -Matthew 5:14



A GARDEN OF SOULS

By Miles & Martha Pike



Over our 12 years of marriage, the two of us have become gardeners. Gardeners in the English sense to be clear, not so much in the Texas sense. I'll never forget going to England and hearing parents talk with concern about the absolute necessity of helping their children as they moved into their new home. Not help them move in, you understand. Help them "sort out the garden." Because (apparently)

you can live with unpacked boxes in the home, but you cannot live without some plants to tend. (I absolutely agree, for the record.) Of course, when we talk about gardening here in Texas, people immediately ask what we grow, expecting to hear broccoli, cabbage, and taters. And, if they ask in June through September, as the Death Star assumes its position directly over our state, they're asking what we grow as they envision a Texas gardener — the sweat soaked, sun scorched, bent but not broken figure obstinately watering plants, picking hornworms off tomatoes, and suffering the irritation of okra's antagonistic leaves, while all other people scuttle into whatever air conditioned shelter they can find and complain about how hot it is.

So when we're asked here in Texas what we grow, and we enthusiastically begin to talk about our petunias and our roses and our chaste trees and our almond verbena that smells so good... well, I'm pretty sure we get downgraded from (G)ardeners to (g)ardeners in the minds of the people we're talking to. Not that I'm complaining. I ain't picking any hornworms off anything, and anybody that is deserves a capital G.

I do think though, that the experience of gardening, whether you're a (G)ardener or a (g)ardener, teaches the same lessons.

1. It's never going to be perfect.
2. Every little effort counts.
3. A little regular effort reaps far greater rewards than a back breaking twice annual marathon.

The parallels between raising plants and raising people seem pretty clear to me, as both a parent and a gardener. 1.) It's never going to be perfect. 2.) Every little effort counts. 3.) A little regular effort reaps great rewards.

I think perhaps fathers don't father their children for the same reason that people don't garden: "I don't know what to do and it looks hard."

Well, unlike gardening, fathering is not optional in God's eyes. (Well, that's actually arguable, since God is a gardener — see Genesis 2:8: "The Lord God planted a garden in Eden..." — and we are commanded to imitate God... but I won't push that point too hard.) So since parenting is not optional, here's the Word on what fathers are supposed to do. (This is a calling for grandfathers, too. See Deuteronomy 4:9.)

Fathers, do not exasperate your children to anger; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4

1. Don't exasperate your children. In gardening terms, there are a lot of things I can do to exasperate my plants. And the thing is, each plant is different. One plant is exasperated by too much water. Another plant is exasperated by not living in a swamp. This plant likes compacted soil, likes being walked on. This plant wants loamy, friable (I love the words there are to describe different kinds and qualities of dirt) soil. This one wants sun, but this one prefers shade. This one likes being talked to, but this one is a loner. So the thing is, if you're not going to provoke your kids, you have to take the time to know what provokes them. Otherwise, you may have the best of intentions, but you're watering a desert plant. You're fertilizing a plant that wants a lean soil.

2. Train them in the Lord's way. In any garden, no plant exists in a vacuum. There are other plants around to consider, and then there's the overall garden to consider. My almond verbena dies to the ground every year, and every year, grows back into a 15 foot tall monstrosity that will completely grow over the garden path if it is allowed to do so. Children have to be trained how to behave in a world that does not revolve around them. More than that, they have to be trained how to behave in this world in a way that pleases the Lord. They have to be taught, more than "do no harm to thy neighbor," to "love thy

neighbor." More than "be nice," they have to be taught "be kind to one another... honor everyone."

3. Instruct them in the Lord's way. In my personal opinion, this is the most disregarded portion of this passage. It's also the portion that has no gardening illustration. You can exasperate plants, pets and people. You can train plants, pets and people. But you can only instruct people. I think maybe fathers fall short here because the other two commands pretty well flow out of just living with your children. Love comes fairly naturally to parents, therefore you, fairly naturally, try not to exasperate your children. You live with them, therefore you, naturally, try to make them pleasant to live with. You train them not to hit or bite. You train them to say, "Please," and "Thank you." These things come naturally to parents. In merely human terms, if you keep from exasperating and if you train them, you're doing well. But what is it to instruct them in the Lord? How are fathers to do this? This is where the gospel comes in. This is where doctrine comes in. This is the "why" behind the "training in the Lord."

If you're a non-gardener looking into an unkempt jungle, start at the beginning. Get to know your plants. Do your homework. Experiment. If you know your plants, but they're taking over the garden...remember, it's not going to be perfect. But with God's blessing, every effort counts. And a little regular effort reaps great rewards.

Keep after it!

NOTE: Miles and Martha will be joining us as Song Evangelists during our 2024 Encampment.

PENIEL YOUTH NEWS

Boys Dorm Update

Peniel has continued to make slow, but steady, progress on the Boys Dorm Fund. Currently, we have raised just over \$17,500 towards the project. In the fall, we sought bids on a slightly larger building than our original drawings called for. We realized that we had set our sights too low and need to be able to accommodate more campers. We have received the updated bids, and it looks as if the total cost of the project, including demolition of the present facility, site preparation, construction of and outfitting of the new facility will likely run \$50,000.

You can use the enclosed donation slip to send in your support. Please keep in mind that as we raise funds for this project, we still have the regular expenses to maintain and prepare the grounds for camp. We would invite you to support both this project AND the general fund with a donation to each.

Youth Attend Launch Party

On February 17-18, the Peniel Youth Program hosted a Launch Party at Venture Church in Boardman to celebrate the opening of summer camp registration. The youth enjoyed reconnecting with camp friends,



playing some summer camp games, and learning this year's camp theme! The launch party ended with the opening of camp registration. On opening day, **24 YOUTH REGISTERED** for summer camp! We are so excited for this great turn out, and we hope to have many more youth who will join this summer. Please consider sharing information about the youth program with your churches, families and friends. Make sure to tell them that **FIRST YEAR YOUTH CAMP FOR FREE!** If you would like promotional materials for the youth program, please email courtney@penielholinesscamp.com.