

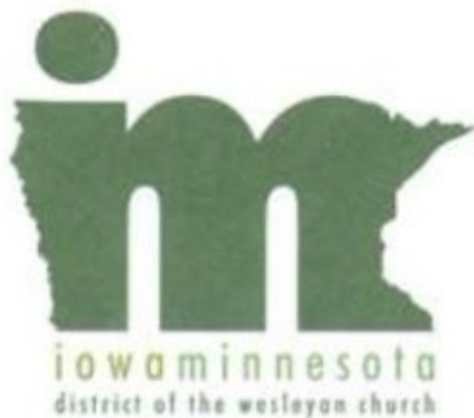


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July Dynamics 2018

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Iowa-Minnesota
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July 2018

OPPORTUNITY AND OBSTACLES

I've been thinking lately about the connection between opportunity and obstacles. Years ago I read that the Chinese word for "crisis" is composed of two characters, one meaning "danger" and the other meaning "opportunity." Sounds about right... It seems like anytime you walk through the door of opportunity, you walk straight into a wall of obstacles.

The classic example of this principle can be found in the Old Testament account of the Israel's refusal to cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land. You remember the story; God led Israel out of slavery in Egypt and right before they were to cross over the Jordan spies came back with the report that there were fortified cities and even giants that would have to be overcome. And you know the rest of the story; they shied away from the challenge and spent the next 40 years doing laps in the wilderness.

Here are some random observations about opportunity and obstacles that rise to the surface in that story:

- **The greater the opportunity, the greater the obstacles.** The bigger the dream the bigger the problems to overcome. The greater the vision, the

greater the hurdles. That's why so many people (and churches) never attempt anything great.

- **Playing it safe may be the most dangerous thing you can do.** Playing it safe didn't work out so well for Israel and it usually doesn't work out so well for churches either. Churches in decline can often pinpoint a time when they shied away from a challenge or avoided making a difficult decision because it seemed too risky.
- **The size of our God is more important than the size of our obstacles.** There were 12 spies who brought back reports from the Promised Land. Ten of the spies were negative and when they gave their report, one thing became very clear—the giants were big, but their God was little. In fact, they didn't even mention God in their report. However, two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, knew that the enemy was no match for their God.
- **The obstacles we avoid today will have to be overcome by someone else later.** One interesting thing about this story is that the next generation of Israelites had to go back and fight the battles their parents refused to fight 40 years earlier. Usually we don't avoid problems, we just postpone them.
- **One more—perseverance wins the day.** One of the things I love about this story is that Joshua and Caleb still got to enter the Promised Land. It was forty years later, but they got there! By the way, if you want a great study on how to grow old, take a close look at Caleb.

So don't be discouraged by obstacles—that just means you are knocking on the door of opportunity! Chuck Swindoll said it like this: "We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations."



God is making all things new through a ministry at **Hillside Wesleyan Church** in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, called "**REVOLUTION!**" Watch this amazing video to see the transformation that only comes through Jesus. [Click here.](#)

It was also amazing to see how God worked in and through the lives of our youth at this year's **Youth Camp-"FOCUS"** Here is a video link to catch some of the highlights. [Click here.](#)

South Troy Church in Zumbro Falls, MN is hoping to make an impact in their community as they work to expand their building and work to reach out to the people of Zumbro Falls through a local food pantry, clothing closet and a kitchen. [Click here](#) to view the video that made the local news. **Pastor Colleen Hoef** is hoping with the added space, it will bring the community together.



We are excited to announce that the DBA approved the launch of two new church plants!

Palabra de Vida in Sioux City, IA
Radiant North in Ankeny, IA



ORDINATION SERVICE
TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Todd Berner
Brian Jones

DISTRICT CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18,
2018

CEDAR SPRINGS CAMP
Begins at 8:00 a.m.

Family Camp and Retreat begins Wednesday, July 18th and runs through Sunday, July 22nd. **Phil Wiseman** from Sioux Falls, South Dakota will be our guest speaker. There is something each day for the whole family! Check out the camp website [here](#) to get further details.



G19 Speakers! - We are so excited about the General Session line-up of speakers. The G19 Executive Team has prayerfully worked to invite speakers to this event who will encourage and inspire us as we live out God's call on our lives. For more information on the speakers and event, head to www.wesleyan.org/gathering



Vital Signs are indicators of life. We want to track the life of the churches in the IA/MN District. Check out the Vital Signs for May 2018 by clicking [here](#).

July Birthdays

6th Ray Adams

8th Nathan Richardson

13th Richard Stoneberg

27th Dale Christiansen

28th **Todd Berner**

29th **Peter Salmon**

30th **Leslie White**



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