

CREATION MOMENTS

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

Why Did God Give Us Fingernails?



Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. – 3 John 1:2

Why did God give us fingernails? So we can scratch our itches? To serve as hardhats for our sensitive fingertips? Or did our Creator give us fingernails as

a diagnostic window into our bodies?

According to WebMD, the color of our nails can reveal a wide range of health issues, some of them quite serious. White fingernails, for instance, may indicate a liver disease like hepatitis. Yellowish, thickened and slow-growing nails may indicate emphysema or other lung ailment. Half-white and half-pink nails may alert doctors of kidney disease. Red nail beds may point to heart disease, while white nail beds may indicate anemia. Irregular red lines at the base of the nail may indicate lupus or connective tissue disease.

Physician Joshua Fox, spokesman for the American Academy of Dermatology, told WebMD that there is no need to run to the nearest cardiologist if your nail beds turn red. "It could very well be from nail polish," he said. The WebMD article adds, "Before assuming the worst, it's important to look at more common explanations, such as bruises, bleeding beneath the nail, and fungal infections. However, it's worthwhile to be vigilant about maintaining healthy fingernails so that you'll be alert to any potential problem."

Wasn't it good of our Creator to give us these ten tiny "windows" into the innermost workings of our bodies? God cares for us ... from the top of our heads to the tips of our fingers!

Ref: Geoffrey Simmons, M.D., *Billions of Missing Links*, pp. 165-169 (Harvest House Publishers, 2007). Photo: From Pixabay. (PD)

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CREATION MOMENTS, INC.

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This insert adapted from Creation Moments' latest book – *Letting God Create Your Day, Volume 8*.
For more information or to order, call our toll-free number or visit us at creationmoments.com.

BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sunday, December 24, 2017

Accompanist: Dixie Battey and Jan Questad

Greeters: Paul & Pam Osmanson Scripture Reader: Matthew Questad

Nursery: Theresa Friesen and Cade Fox Usher: Mike Kresak

Children's Church: Barbara Young and Kyle Skogen

9:30 am

Worship Service

Welcome, Announcements, and Christian Greetings

Pastoral Prayer

Offering/Offertory

Doxology (*Hymn #625*) – please stand

Hymn #152....."I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

Hymn #137....."What Child Is This?"

Ministry of Music.....Jan Questad

Hymn #131....."Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Hymn #133....."Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

Children's Moments with Pastor Randy Battey

Scripture Reading.....Matthew 1:18-25

Children may be excused for Children's Church (3 yrs-2nd grade)

Sermon..."Joy Comes in the Stable".....Pastor Randy Battey

Main Points:

I. The Cause of Joy (Luke 2:8-12)

II. The Expression of Joy (Luke 2:12-20)

Closing Hymn #125....."Joy to the World!"

Benediction

Postlude

***Nursery is available for children infant thru 3 years old

(Please contact an usher for information and/or direction.)

***Hearing Amplifier Available – Please contact an usher

Please join us after the worship service for coffee and treats in the fellowship room.

No Sunday School today

For Your Information and Prayer

- Today: 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- Wednesday: No Awana Clubs this week (resumes January 3rd)
- Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study at Charlotte Rottluff home, 1413 Rushmore Dr (Autumn View I), Brandon

Upcoming Events:

- December 31 – Pastor gone, pulpit fill Chaplain Harlan Moss
- January 7th White Cross Love offering and Video and Bandage rolling/potluck
- January Alpha Center World's Largest Baby Shower (all month)

Next Sunday: January 3, 2017

- Greeters: Doris Conradson
- Usher: Dave James
- Nursery: Ginger Nelson and Katrina Nelson
- Scripture Reader: Theresa Friesen
- Children's Church: Trevor Skogen and Andrea Skogen

OUR GIVING:	Sunday, December 17, 2016
General Giving	\$ 2,064.00
Awana	\$ 26.00
Total	\$ 2,090.00
(Approximately \$2,500 is needed each week to meet expenses)	

***** Praise & Prayer*****

Mary Tripp, sister of Theresa Friesen, prayer for mouth cancer healing

Ron Benson, brother of Mike Benson, for heart health issues

Amanda Benson, as her sending church, Amanda has asked that we lift her up in prayer as she is in the mission field.

Serving Our Country: Josh Onnen, Air Guard; Chad Carlson, Air Guard (Son-in-law of Carl & Lindy Johnson); Kristina Lee, Air Force (Grandchild of Ray & Dee Olson); Amir Rottluff, Navy (grandson of Charlotte Rottluff)

Our Prayer Partnership

- Valley Springs Reformed Church
- Pastor Doug & Jenny Bartel, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Sioux Falls

Pray for the Persecuted Church: Pakistan

Church Targeted in Terrorist Attack

Sources: Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin, Morning Star News

On the Sunday morning of December 17th, four Islamic terrorists attacked the Bethel Memorial Methodist Church in Quetta, the capital of Pakistan's Baluchistan Province. Some 400 Christians were participating in the "Sunday School Christmas Program" when gunfire erupted outside. Two gunmen had shot dead the church's gatekeeper, George Masih, paving the way for two suicide bombers to invade. Security guards stationed around the perimeter of the church and on the roof returned fire – killing one bomber, wounding the other, and forcing the remaining two gunmen to flee.

Unable to make it inside the church, the wounded bomber detonated his explosive vest outside. At least nine Christians were killed in the blast and more than 50 suffered wounds from the fired bullets or shards of wood and glass that were propelled by the explosion. According to Pastor Samuel, had either of the two bombers managed to enter the church, the death toll "would have been colossal." The self-proclaimed Islamic State (ISIS) has claimed responsibility for the attack.

While we lament and *"weep with those who weep"* (Romans 12:15), we thank God that the full extent of the intended evil was not realized.

Thank you for joining us in prayer for the protection of Christians in Pakistan and their churches, especially during this Christmas season when they're potentially more vulnerable to targeted attacks. In addition, may God provide comfort and encouragement to every persecuted believer – whether they happen to be spending this Christmas in prison or in the custody of Islamic militants on account of the name of Jesus. While these believers await the Lord's deliverance, pray that they will tangibly experience His closeness and everlasting love; fully aware that wherever they happen to be, His "sanctuary" (or "dwelling place") is residing with them.