

International House of Prayer of Greater Fort Wayne

...a day and night , city-wide, multi-church prayer and worship ministry

The Perfect Shot

Recently I was reading a story about a Scottish biologist named Allan McFadyen who traces his passion for nature to his Grandfather. His earliest memory is when, at 6 years old, his Grandfather woke him just before dawn to go bicycling to a nature preserve near their home in Scotland. After an almost 2 mile ride they hiked to his Grandfather's favorite bird watching spot. There they sat for almost an hour in the cold morning air when, he recalls, his Grandfather pointing Allan's attention towards a piping call and a bright blue bird shot past them! Allan, who is now in his 50's, said that was the moment he was hooked! He had no idea such beauty existed in the UK.

Not only did he become a biologist but in 2009 Allan decided to buy a camera with a hope that he could somehow capture part of what he had come to experience in the wild. With absolutely no camera experience he set out to photograph the bird that had started it all -the Kingfisher. By now he knew that this bird was absolutely gorgeous in motion but very difficult to spot and even harder to photograph. They are only about 6 inches long and once you finally spot a bird it may sit for 90 minutes before diving. They are excellent fisherman and very fast. They will typically dive from their perch at 25 miles an hour. I mean why not start out your side hobby of photographing one of the most difficult birds to find, frame, and capture in flight. Allan made it his goal to take the perfect shot of a Kingfisher...it only took him 100 days a year, over 6 years, and 720,000 shots to finally take the perfect shot...

There are many pictures of Kingfisher's but most believe this photo to be the perfect shot....an exact representation of this magnificent bird.

When he was asked about the sheer amount of time and attempts required to get the shot Allan said *'I never really stopped to think about how long it was taking along the way as I enjoyed doing it but now that I look back on it, I'm really proud of the picture and the work I put in.'* When you look at this photo there is no mistaking the distinction of this bird.

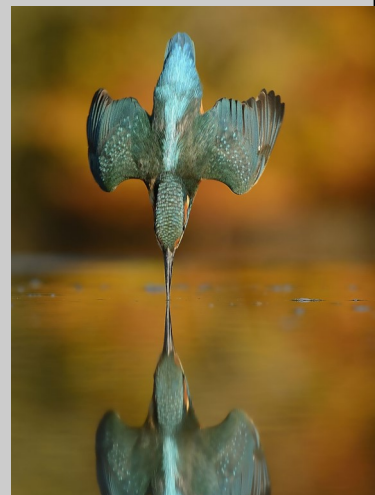
You see here is the truth - if I were to walk in that nature preserve in Scotland it would be an accomplishment for me to even spot this bird - I would likely have to sit in a bird blind or wear camouflage but then I would have to know what I was looking for!

God's people in Jesus' day were faced with a similar problem...God had come but their highest imagination of a King and His Kingdom was firmly fixed to ideas of power, control, and force. Yet Jesus clearly proclaimed and displayed for God so LOVED the world that He gave His one and only Son.

Hebrews describes it this way to a people who, after Genesis 3, had only heard about what God looked like and by the time Jesus arrived they had buildings and practices set up to invite people to consider what God looked like....this is from The Passion Translation;

***The Son is the dazzling radiance of God's splendor,
the exact expression of God's true nature—his mirror image!***

Beloved in a world and to a people that was filled with images of God, Jesus is the Perfect Picture of the Father and that is Good News! He spoke life, removed darkness, and restored beauty! In a moment struggling to find clarity we do not need buildings and trappings of religion to catch a glimpse of how God feels about you and me. If you want to know what God is like, look at the Perfect Picture of God our Father—Jesus.



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And the secret is simply this: **Christ in you!**

Yes, Christ in you bringing with him the hope of all glorious things to come. Col 1:27b, JB Phillips

Jesus said to Nicodemus - *like Moses lifted the serpent so the Son of man must be lifted up* John 3:14 ...*for God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son* (John 3:16). **What was being lifted up?** According to Jesus, like Moses' serpent, He would take everything that is killing man in their body soul and spirit upon Himself. Isaiah 53. What is Jesus lifting up and now saving man from? Satan - bondage to Satan 'the prince of this world is about to be driven out.' (John 12:31), Sin - through radical forgiveness, from death by entering death and overcoming it, Paul says that what got lifted up was everything that stood against us Col 2:14-15. Now watch this - the words 'lift up' also means take away....the One who was lifted up took it all away!

The real picture? He removed every vapor of distance and restored man. I want to submit that it was not just what is killing us that was lifted up—it was Love that was lifted up . If you want to know the One true God - look at the Cross! **Beloved it was not your sin that held Him -it was His love that held Him!** '*If I am lifted up*' is not about power, control, and force on display, it is **Love!** '*...and I will draw all men to Myself...*' because it is His kindness that leads us to repentance! Sin, death, and destruction have been lifted up (taken away), defeated, and driven out. Now Love is on display!

I also want to submit that we see what an actual human being looks like in the man Jesus. Self giving. self emptying love and forgiveness. We are most human when we choose to let go of our poor picture of life and embrace His perfect reflection of life in self giving, self emptying, love and forgiveness. One person put it this way; *Seeing Jesus isn't a spectator sport. It is a way to be followed, a truth to be embodied, a life to be lived. It's being a grain of wheat that falls into the ground and dies so that it might bear much fruit. That's where we see him. It's the letting go, the emptying, the leaving behind, and the dying that makes space for new life to arise.* **Beloved in a world and to a people that is filled with images of God -Jesus is the Perfect Picture of the Father! Gaze on Him.**

Love Offering for El Salvador

- While we are not able to travel to El Salvador, we will still be giving an offering.
- Target date for sending our love offering to El Salvador has been moved to **early June.**
- We are convinced this will be a critical, life giving offering for the people of San Pablo Tacho Chico El Salvador where poverty has been exacerbated by the covid virus.

***IHOP Fort Wayne
Summer Camp 2021
July 12-15
Limited spots available***

Where: Stillwater Retreat, Yoder, IN
Who: Children ages 8-16+
Contact: Debi Shinn
260-485-3182 debishinn@yahoo.com

Good Times with Friends as We Pursue the Lord and Fellowship with Him Together!

With gratitude and integrity we steward your gifts. Thank you for partnering with the mission the Lord has given us in this hour as we partner with Him in His kingdom purposes.

Please make your **tax deductible** contribution to:

**IHOP Fort Wayne
5907 West Wallen Road,
Fort Wayne, IN 46818**

Ben and Denise, Please agree with us over these prayer needs for the next month...

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