

# The Connection



Monthly Newsletter of  
South Point Community Church  
June 2022 – Volume 58

## A Word from Pastor Dave

Ann Voskamp (a popular Canadian Christian writer, blogger and speaker) wrote this article, “What Do You Do With All of This Grief?” after the recent shootings at Robb Elementary School in Texas. The article begins to explore the very, very biblical idea of Lament; so biblical that you might recall the prophet Jeremiah wrote a book called, Lamentations. Now, I am sure we are all too familiar with those little Christian catch phrases like, “I guess all we can really do is trust God with it” or “I’m just glad that God is protecting us”. There are lots of these ideas among well-intentioned Christians and I am sure from time to time I have lent my own voice to nearly all of them. I like trusting God and being an optimist. I find comfort in the truth that God does have a plan and that He does use even tragic events to bring sometimes a surprising amount of good. But if any book is willing to deal much, much more honestly and openly with the ugly truth of hardship and tragedy it is the Bible! The Bible wants to make it clear that our real thoughts and feelings about these kinds of events are important. They have a place to be spoken, out loud, in front of God, with all the volume, anger, despair, questions and frustration that are just real and true to the situation. Not only can this happen but according to the Scriptures this kind of lamenting and grieving before God has far more than simply a cathartic function, moving potentially from lament, to deeper intercession, to God ordained action.

So even though it’s not the typical cheery Summer theme of a June Newsletter, let me invite you to find a shady spot to sit for

## June Dates

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Pastoral Team Meeting 8:30 am
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Worship Service 10:30 am
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Women's Bible Study 7 pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Prayer at Ruby's 10:30 am
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Coffee Talk Service 10:30 am
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Women's Social Gathering 7 pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Happy Father's Day
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Worship & Communion Service 10:30 am
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Women's Bible Study 7 pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Prayer at Ruby's 10:30 am
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Coffee Talk Service 10:30 am
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Town Hall Meeting
- 29<sup>th</sup> - Prayer at Church 10:30 am

a bit and read through the articles here so that you too can benefit from some thoughts about processing the heavier things of life. Things that don't seem to care if it's Summer, Winter, Spring or Fall. And please, if you want to explore any of these topics a little more, feel free to call. We'll get some cold drinks and just talk because among other things, making time and space for the truth is vital if we can ever hope to be more than just a sad cynic or a mad critic. Here's a copy of Ann Voskamp's article which you can find on her website along with many other resources at [annvoskamp.com](http://annvoskamp.com)

*"What Do You Do With All of This Grief?"*

You know exactly where you were when you heard, how your heart dropped, your hands fell limp, helpless, and how all our grief howls, and we don't turn away.

Headlines keep leaving fracture lines through all our hearts:

Bullets and abuse and polarization and anger and injustice and hatred and war and graves... all these excavated, fresh graves.

And now we weep for sweet children who should have been slurping down their cereal this morning and pressing their warm cheeks right up against their mama's as they tightly hug their mama's necks, and we ache for grocery stores and church pews and public squares that are desecrated with profane violence, and in between all the shattering pain of this earth and all the sure promises of God, we weep with God.

**This whole suffering world is awash with the tears of God and no one cries alone.**

And yet the grief of it all can feel like too much, and it's too easy to be tempted to move onto desensitized numbness, or into heated debate, because it's far too painful to fully feel it all, but we need to let it all come because:

**Lament is our protest.**

**Lament is our protest about what is not right about life.**

**Lament is our laying out our longing for justice.**

**Lament is where we live, the land between the pain of this earth and the promises of our God.**

Grief needs to speak and we need to keep making spaces for letting all of us share all kinds of deep lament. So we dare to say the names of people lost, and we dare to stare at their pictures, look into eyes and memorize faces, and we sit with tears, because *injustice grows whenever we dehumanize moments and don't take time to grieve.*

If we deeply care about justice, justice in our streets, in our churches, in our schools, in our communities, in our world, we will keep making spaces for deep lament in our hearts, because **when our hearts are moved to lament, the very heart of God is moved toward all of us.**

Though we may not hear each others cries across the street, across the spectrum, across the aisle, our cries are always heard across heaven. In Christ, we are truly assured of being truly heard. **Our grief has the very ear of God.**

In the midst of all kinds of tragedies and travesties, is the always kind fidelity of our God Almighty.

In God we trust and we trust that our grief moves God. Moves God's heart, and moves God's long arm.

**When we are moved to lament and grieve — God is moved on our behalf.**

**And we are moved to act on behalf of the vulnerable.**

**And our God is not a God of apathy, but a God of empathy, a God who is not caught off guard but a God who catches every tear, a God who is not silent in the face of all kinds of violence, but turned us His face toward ours and acted, opening wide His arms on the Cross to bear it all.**

**The only comforting home for all our grief is in the arms of the covenantal love of Christ.**

*It is only His witness that can begin to break all this brokenness.*

In a world of staggering loss and injustice, in the arms of Jesus, we hear His steady heart beat, "Fear not, for I am with you" (Isa. 41:10), which transforms the beat of our own hearts, "I will not fear, for You are with me" (Ps. 23:4).

**Days like these beg us to open our palms and live the psalms and live our lament out loud and look to our God to move and to move us — move us to hope, move us to help, move us to act.**

Wherever we are right now, in this deeply broken world of deeply heartbroken stories, our helpless hands can still rise with hope.

Because our cries will rise, and our lament will rise, and our hope will rise because from dead, hopeless places, our God knows how to rise and it's Him who is rising up in us and moving all of us.

<https://annvoskamp.com/2022/05/what-do-you-do-with-all-of-this-grief/>

# Barnabas Notes

## Lament



Our world has become a wicked place to live, and it will continue to get worse as the end draws near to the rapture of God's people. Jesus said "And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me where I am" John 14:3 NIV.

In the meanwhile, we all must endure what the world is dishing out. There are wars, rumors of wars, pandemics, earthquakes, pestilence, flooding, and extreme weather events. People are proud, wicked, oppressive, murderers, senseless, and foolish. And we are suffering from heart failure, cancer, anxiety, and many other ailments.

So as mature Christian's what can we do? We lament. We express regret or disappointment over the things that come into our lives or the lives of our families and friends, which we consider to be unsatisfactory, unreasonable, or unfair.

We don't keep these things to ourselves. We give over the problems and situations to God, who hears us. Prayers of Lament are a form of worship and faith. We worship God even in the midst of pouring our or our friends difficulty out before Him. Instead of backing away from God during a hard time or a dark night, we face the pain and worship Him with it. As an act of love we offer it all to God.

Lean into God's grace, love, and mercy and He will answer in His time. He is never early, yet He is never late. When I said, "My foot is slipping," your unfailing love, Lord, supported me, when anxiety was great within me; your consolation brought me joy. Psalm 94: 18-19.

It is reassuring to know that our God has the final say, the last word, because He loves us and wants the best for us.

*God is in Control*

*We believe that His children will not be forsaken*

*God is in control*

*We will choose to remember and never be shaken*

*There is no power above or beside Him, we know*

*God is in control*

(Chorus from the song "God is in Control" by Twila Paris)

Every week our church prayer team meets to pray for many people and many different situations. We give everything to God in prayer. And He answers.

No problem is too big or too small for our God. If you are in need of prayer support please contact Tracy by phone at (226) 347-0033 or email: [tracy@southpointcc.ca](mailto:tracy@southpointcc.ca)

Blessings,

Barnabas

**WHEN I THOUGHT, "MY FOOT SLIPS,"  
YOUR STEADFAST LOVE, O LORD,  
HELD ME UP. WHEN THE CARES OF MY  
HEART ARE MANY,  
YOUR CONSOLATIONS  
CHEER MY SOUL.**

**PSALMS 94:18-19 ESV**





## Ministry Highlight

This month we would like to highlight our G.S.T ministry (Guest Services Team). This ministry is made up of a group of people that share God's love through hospitality and we are so thankful for them. You may think it's just coffee and some treats but the purpose behind our GST table is to kindly welcome everyone that enters our doors into fellowship. Merriam Webster's Dictionary defines hospitality as, "generous and friendly treatment of visitors and guests. If you look in the Bible, hospitality was pretty important and is listed as one of the spiritual gifts. The Greek word for hospitality that is used in the New Testament is philoxenia which literally means "Love for Strangers". In Hebrews 13:2 it says, "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it". In 1 Peter 4:9-11 it says, "Offer hospitality to one another

*without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised*

*through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. Is hospitality one of your gifts? If so, there are two different ways you can volunteer for this ministry. The first way is to arrive at the church a little early*



and help to make the coffee, juice... get everything prepared and help with cleanup afterwards. The second way you can help out is to offer to do some baking or bring a healthy snack that can be shared. If you are interested in being a part of this team or

learning more about it, please talk to Tracy ([tracy@southpointcc.ca](mailto:tracy@southpointcc.ca)).



# J'Aime's Reflections



I was 16 and in Grade 11 when the Columbine shooting happened. The thought of being shot while sitting in school was terrifying. However, guns were a very real part of my life at that point. I grew up in Michigan. Gun culture was alive and well in the late 90s. Most everyone owned one.

The rate of gun violence within the US is unfathomable. On May 24<sup>th</sup> yet another terrible mass murder took place. This time it was in a school. Nineteen kids. Two adults. Thousands of lives forever touched and entangled with grief. Many an angry fist shaking upwards while people scream out a question: "Why God?"

Holding on to your faith in the face of such appalling tragedy can be a difficult thing to do. I think of the opening of Psalm 22: "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?" (NIV) I think of Jesus screaming out the beginning of the psalm during his Crucifixion. In both cases, the words show strife during struggling times. But, if you read through the rest of Psalm 22 you see that, ultimately, those cries of sadness are not in vain. We worship a righteous God – the last three words of the Psalm are a glorious exaltation of 'He did it!'. He knows. He understands. He loves. He forgives.

And, like any father, He isn't afraid to call us out when we're doing wrong. I read through Ezekiel 22 before writing this article. The caption at the top of the chapter is 'Judgement on Jerusalem's Sins' and oh boy... what's

being described in Ezekiel is a culture of debauchery and violence. In verse 30 we hear the Lord: "I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one." (NIV)

Just how lost in sin were these people if God couldn't find a righteous individual among them? Not one person having the bravery and courage to get up within the chaos, perch atop a soapbox and declare that something is wrong. In the face of destructive sin...faith was gone and lost. Suddenly, the culture of debauchery and violence seems normal. The implied hopelessness of such a society is truly depressing to consider.

God sees the folks out there who stand up to the violence, the discrimination, the hate and the rage. He sees the righteous people and he hears the prayers of those brave enough to get up and proclaim the victory of His love. He also hears the cries of those who suffer in the culture of violence.

It is vitally important to keep the faith, now more so than ever. Stand up and proclaim the good news. The only way you can help flip a culture is by defying the norms. Put on the armor of God, get out there and pray fervently for the people suffering in a wicked culture that is so clearly bad. Pray for the people in power who have the ability to start the changes needed to make things better. And pray for those who are lost, but who will certainly never be forgotten.

# Crunchy Potato Chicken Legs

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup Mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 Tbsp. Dijon Mustard
- 8 chicken drumsticks (about 2 lbs.)
- 1 1/2 cups crushed potato chips (about 3 oz.)



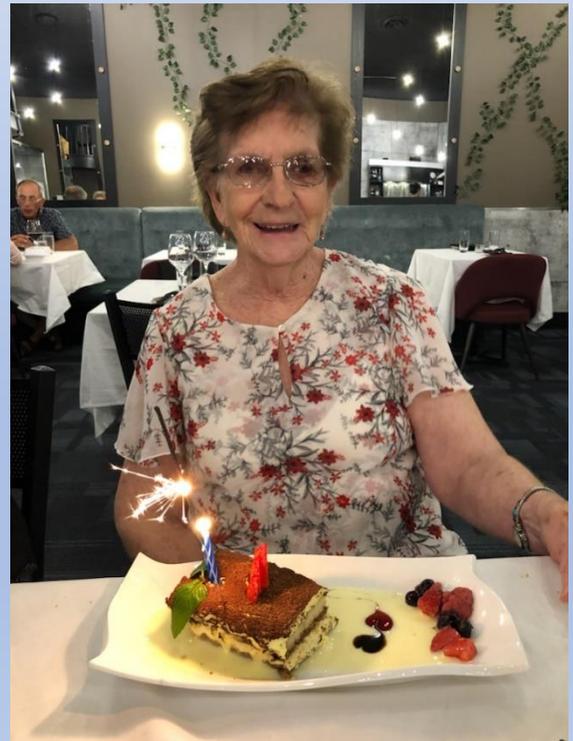
## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Lightly spray baking sheet with no-stick cooking spray, set aside.
2. Combine the mayonnaise, honey and mustard in a medium bowl. Remove 1 cup of mixture and reserve for later.
3. Combine remaining mayonnaise mixture with chicken in large bowl, toss to coat. Roll chicken in crushed potato chips. Arrange on prepared baking sheet.
4. Bake until chicken is thoroughly cooked, about 35 minutes. Serve with the reserved 1 cup of mayonnaise mixture.

Try adding 1/2 teaspoon of cumin or your choice of ground chili powder to your crushed potato chips for a spicy kick of flavour.

Happy Birthday  
To Everyone  
Born in June!

- |               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1-Carl        | 18-Hugh             |
| 4-Owen L.     | 20-Larry            |
| 9-Christopher | 20-Lois             |
| 9-Dawn        | 21-Nazna            |
| 10-Curtis     | 27-Hollie           |
| 11-J'ime      | 29-Grayson & Gianna |
| 13-Liam       | 29-Mylz             |
| 14-Irene      |                     |
| 14-Doris      |                     |



A **RIGHTEOUS**  
man **WHO** walks  
IN HIS **INTEGRITY** -  
How **BLESSED**  
ARE HIS **CHILDREN** after him.  
PROVERBS **20:7**

# SPCC Family Fun & Fellowship



# Prayers of Lament



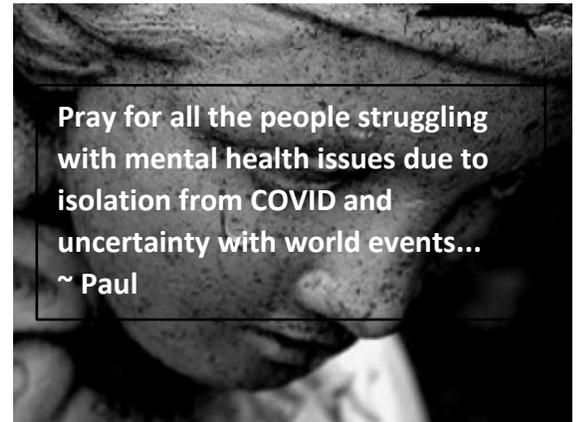
In this life, sorrows like sea billows do roll.  
With silent cries, we ask you. Where are you God?  
Choked by guilt shame and regrets.  
Over taken by the pain of abandonment and rejection.  
Pulled under by the grief of sickness and death.  
How unfair and hopeless are those who day after day hunger,  
who battle to make enough to survive, who suffer unjustly in war.  
Do you hear their groaning, their cries for help?  
And we question you as we look around us.  
Has the dragon been released to carry out his evil plan to kill steal  
and destroy as we witness more and more how humans are turning on each  
other?

David cried. Out of the depths I cry to you O Lord, hear my voice.  
Jesus asked. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
You did hear them. You rescued them .You did. Catching them as they fell.  
We too bare our tattered souls to you. We wait for you to come and rescue  
all  
those who call out in the darkness of despair.  
Absorb the dark clouds of sorrow Lord. Release the pressure within,  
breaking free those caught in the tangle of desperation.  
We surrender not to the waves of hopelessness, but too you,

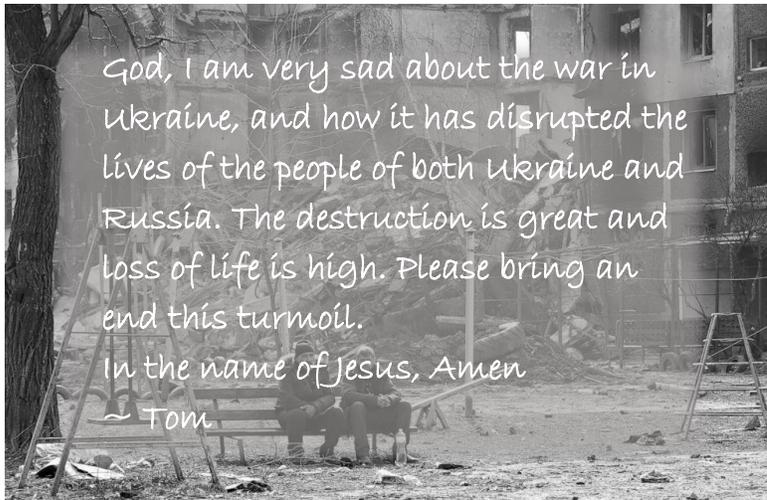


In the multitude of my  
anxieties within me,  
Your comforts delight  
my soul.

Psalm 94:19



Pray for all the people struggling  
with mental health issues due to  
isolation from COVID and  
uncertainty with world events...  
~ Paul



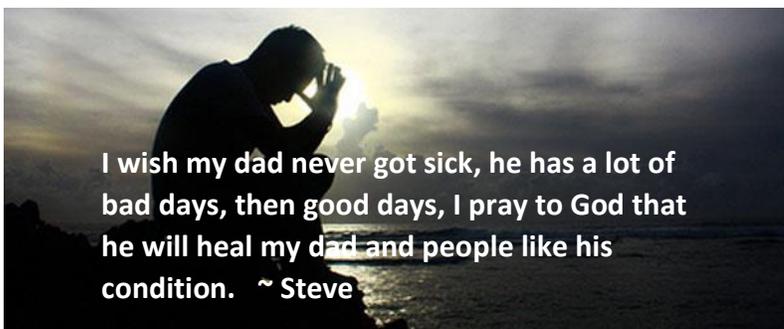
God, I am very sad about the war in  
Ukraine, and how it has disrupted the  
lives of the people of both Ukraine and  
Russia. The destruction is great and  
loss of life is high. Please bring an  
end this turmoil.

In the name of Jesus, Amen

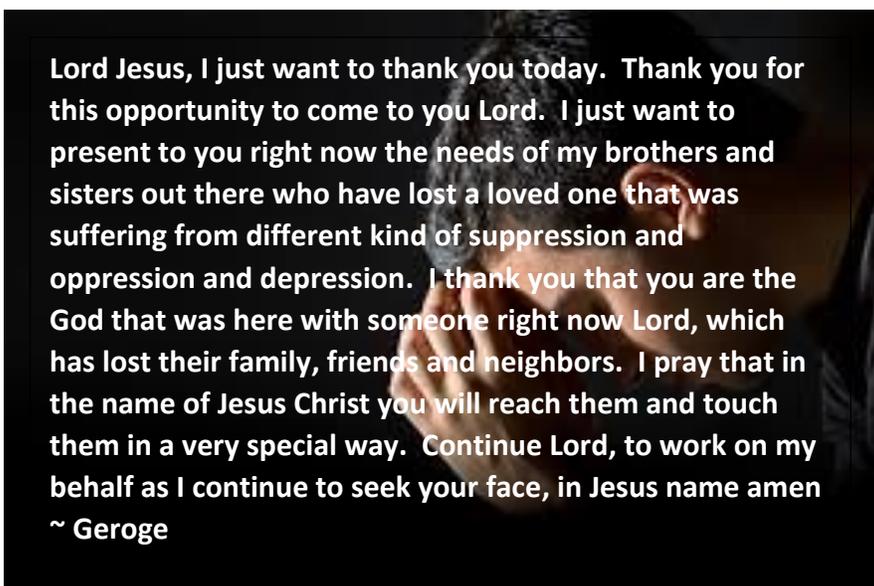
~ Tom



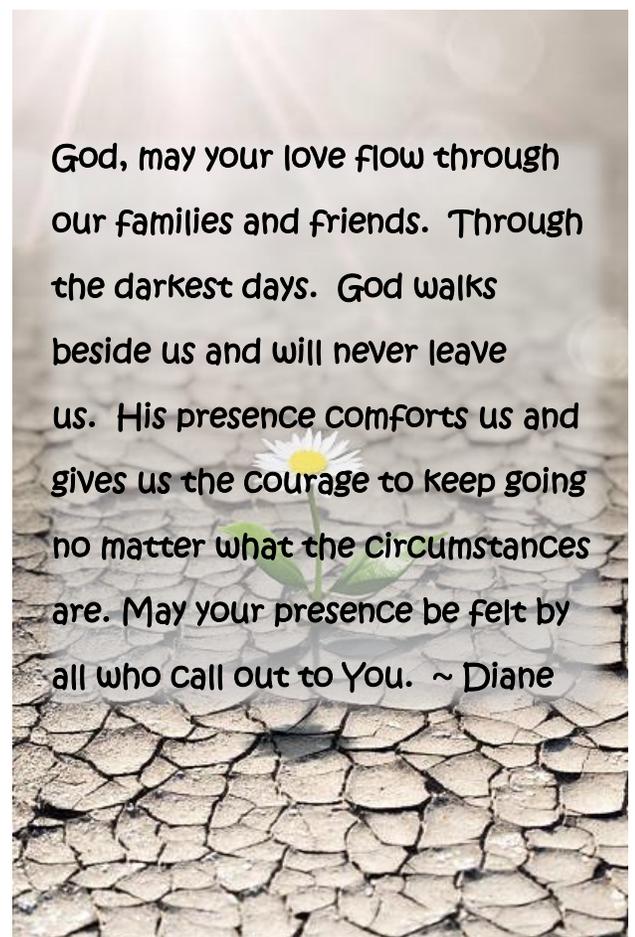
I have grief about not seeing my father. He passed  
away many years ago. I miss all of my relatives in  
Hungary and wish they could visit. ~ Margaret



I wish my dad never got sick, he has a lot of  
bad days, then good days, I pray to God that  
he will heal my dad and people like his  
condition. ~ Steve



Lord Jesus, I just want to thank you today. Thank you for  
this opportunity to come to you Lord. I just want to  
present to you right now the needs of my brothers and  
sisters out there who have lost a loved one that was  
suffering from different kind of suppression and  
oppression and depression. I thank you that you are the  
God that was here with someone right now Lord, which  
has lost their family, friends and neighbors. I pray that in  
the name of Jesus Christ you will reach them and touch  
them in a very special way. Continue Lord, to work on my  
behalf as I continue to seek your face, in Jesus name amen  
~ Geroge



God, may your love flow through  
our families and friends. Through  
the darkest days. God walks  
beside us and will never leave  
us. His presence comforts us and  
gives us the courage to keep going  
no matter what the circumstances  
are. May your presence be felt by  
all who call out to You. ~ Diane



## Fathers Day

P	R	S	K	N	I	L	F	F	U	C	O	F	P
T	E	H	E	R	D	A	D	D	Y	E	E	A	H
S	S	E	B	R	H	E	F	O	R	C	C	T	O
P	P	O	I	E	T	I	V	I	Z	R	C	H	N
O	E	L	A	E	E	E	A	A	S	S	T	E	E
R	C	O	K	A	T	R	R	H	C	H	E	R	S
T	T	H	C	T	A	W	S	F	E	N	I	T	U
S	T	R	O	N	G	A	E	O	E	R	A	N	A
C	J	T	N	J	N	A	N	O	A	T	O	M	G
A	A	T	U	N	C	L	E	T	A	N	T	L	E
R	C	T	A	Y	A	T	O	B	O	E	D	O	D
E	K	M	A	T	E	L	L	A	W	R	D	V	P
A	E	E	S	H	H	T	O	L	R	A	C	E	N
I	T	T	R	A	Z	O	R	L	L	P	D	H	A

- HERO
- PARENT
- WATCH
- CUFF LINKS
- STRONG
- FATHER
- JACKET
- UNCLE
- HAT
- FISHING
- PHONE
- MAN CAVE
- FOOTBALL
- DADDY
- SPORTSCAR
- RESPECT
- BEER
- WALLET
- RAZOR
- LOVE

