

The Springs

Where The Thirsty Find Life

May 11, 2023

"God heard...and said to her (Hagar)... 'Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him by the hand, for I will make a great nation of him.'"

Genesis 21:17-18

Hagar was used; she was a pawn in the family drama of Abraham & Sarah. God had promised Abraham a son years ago. When that did not happen in accordance with their timeline, Sarah had a plan. In chapter 16, she told Abraham to sleep with her slave and conceive the child through her. Since Hagar belonged to Sarah, any son born to her would as well. In Sarah's eyes, this was the child they were promised. After the birth of Ishmael, for 14 years, her child was the only child of Abraham. And in the eyes of Ancient Near Eastern culture, he was the firstborn son and thus entitled to all the benefits of that position. But while Abraham and Sarah thought this was the fulfillment of God's promise, God had others plans. And so, at the ages of 100 and 90, Abraham and Sarah had Isaac. But Sarah was not happy. In fact, she was probably jealous. It caused a rift between Sarah and Abraham, who gave his wife permission to treat Hagar as she wished. As a result of Sarah's harsh treatment, Hagar fled into the desert. There an angel of the Lord found her and told her to go back to Abraham's household, but attached a promise to that-God would make a great nation from her son (most likely the Bedouin tribes of the Middle East that are the progenitors of the Arab nations today).

But then Isaac was born, and Hagar became used again. In Genesis 21:9, Ishmael did something to Isaac. We are not sure what it is because the Hebrew word has several diverse meanings. The NASB says that Ishmael was "mocking" Isaac. Whatever the case, Sarah wanted them gone. Now, Hagar was of no use to her. And so, Abraham sent them away into the desert. After using up all their provisions, Hagar is ready to throw in the towel in verses 15-17 of chapter 21. She is waiting for her son to die, and she is ready to die herself. But God had other plans. An angel spoke to her, reminding her of his promise of a great nation, and showed her a stream of water from which to drink. They drank, and verse 20 tells us that God was with Ishmael, and he became a father of his own 12 tribes just like his half-brother Isaac. God used Hagar during great turmoil to bless her son & make out of him a great nation.

Have you ever felt like Hagar? Used as a pawn in someone else's game, tossed aside because you did not meet their needs anymore? Set aside because you did not fit their agenda? If you have, remember the story of Hagar. God can use you for his purpose. God can bless you for his glory. God sees you just like he saw Hagar. In the midst of the storms, God will care for you. When the world treats you like trash, and wishes you were gone, God holds you close and wraps you in his loving arms. Jesus says "Come, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) Will you come to Jesus today to be used by him for God's glory & purpose?

In Christ, Matthew Hall

New Prayer Requests

Barbara Walker

Justin Dean - Cancer (Friend of the Richardson's)

Martha Holt - Broken Pelvis

Nora Goodsell (4 yr old - Friend of Polly Little) - **Aggressive Leukemia**

Please continue to pray for:

Shirley Dooley, Francois du Plessis, James & Glenda Smith,
Ken LaBruyere, Otha Barham, Brenda Huffman, Sharon Stephens,
Delaney Heckert, Charlotte Chaney, Will Alexander, Shane Helton,
Kevin Stiefel, Kati Stembidge, Adrian Hill, Robert Sanford,
Brenda Ferry, Cheri Barry, Neal Martin

If you have a prayer request please let the office know.

May Birthdays

1st Laikyyn Wilson

3rd L.J. Rue

11th Oliver Ridinger

14th Elise Joyner

Pam Litton

15th Francois du Plessis

20th Mila Fluker

23rd Nathan Gatlin

27th Hannah Hall

Linda Long

28th Ron Burton

Ashley Wolvers

The Executive Team would like to recognize all those in the congregation who have been giving to our "Securing the Legacy" fund. When we did the renovations on the church in 2006, we took out a loan for \$1.3 million. Over the past 17 years, this church has faithfully given to pay down that note. As of this month, we have only \$124,000 left to go. At the rate we are paying it down, we'll have that note paid off by the end of next year. THANK YOU!!! Your faithfulness to this commitment that you made has not gone unnoticed. As we get closer to our goal of paying off the debt, we recognize your faithfulness and continue to celebrate God's faithfulness in our church.

Sunday, May 14 - Happy Mother's Day

9:30 A.M. Worship

10:45 A.M. LifeGroups

Sunday, May 21

9:30 A.M. Worship

**10:45 A.M. Information Meeting
With David Stotts**

Tuesday, May 16

10:00 A.M. *The Story of God, The Story
of Us Study*

6:00 P.M. Basketball

Wednesday, May 24

5:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 17

5:00 P.M. Choir Rehearsal

6:00 P.M. *The Story of God, The Story
Of Us Study*

**6:00 P.M. Youth and Children
Last - Summer Break**

Sunday, May 28

9:30 A.M. Worship

10:45 A.M. LifeGroups

Thursday, May 18

5:00 P.M. Staff Meeting/Conf. Rm.

Wesley House

**May - Canned Spaghetti, Ravioli
or other canned pastas.**

Your donations can be placed in the sanctuary
(Donation Bins) or brought by the office.



Rocky Railway VBS

June 15th - 18th

Thurs & Friday - 5:30 pm - 8 pm

Saturday - 9 am - 2 pm

Sunday - 9:30 am - 12 Noon

We're gathering snack supplies:

- individually wrapped granola bars (*no nuts or chocolate chips*)
- Twizzler Pull 'n' Peel candy ropes
- plain bagels
- berry cream cheese (*8 oz. containers*)
- mini marshmallows
- butter
- cocoa crispy rice cereal
- Oreo cookies
- black gel food coloring
- honey wheat twist pretzels
- frosting pouches with caps
- graham crackers
- strawberries
- blueberries
- whipped topping (*8 oz. containers*)
- clementines



Memorials:

In Memory of:

Mavis Thrash Ken & Dixie LaBruyere
Neldia White
Ollie Faye Jones
Mark & Ginny Adkins
Jerry & Linda Long
Ron & Jennifer St. John
Irby & Cindy Lang

Jesse Mendiola Duke & Caroline Wilson
James & Janete Weeks

Gerald Wright Jerry & Linda Long
(Christine Carson's Dad) Sandy Thomas

Volunteer Opportunities

May 14 - Sunday

Acolytes: Bekah & Hannah Hall
Greeters: Cindy Lang, Luci Wolvers
Scripture Reader: Erin House
Sunday Snacks:

May 15- Monday

Meals on Wheels Delivery: Nancy Crews, Grady Coleman

May 21 - Sunday

Acolytes: Billy & Teresa Anders
Greeters: Cathy Ellis, Angie Sherrill
Scripture Reader: Erin Richardson
Sunday Snacks: Dianne Shannon, Polly Little

May 22 - Monday

Meals on Wheels Delivery: Marjorie Walker

May 28 - Sunday

Acolytes: Leigh Ann Smith, Rayleigh Floyd
Greeters: Robin Thompson, Nancy Crews
Scripture Reader: Carrol Barham
Sunday Snacks: Malaea Mendiola, Robin Thompson

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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May 11, 2023

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To:

The 2023 Bible Challenge

May 10	1 Chronicles 28 -29, 2 Chronicles 1
May 11	2 Chronicles 2 - 5
May 12	2 Chronicles 6 - 8
May 13	2 Chronicles 9 - 12
May 14	2 Chronicles 13 - 17
May 15	2 Chronicles 18 - 20
May 16	2 Chronicles 21 - 24
May 17	2 Chronicles 25 - 27
May 18	2 Chronicles 28 - 31
May 19	2 Chronicles 32 - 34
May 20	2 Chronicles 35 - 36

Commit spending time every day in God's word. For those who meditate and journal, here are some reflection questions:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?
2. What does this passage teach us about ourselves?
3. What does this passage teach us about our world?
4. Are there any thoughts, words or phrases that caught your attention ? Why ?

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