



Church Has Left the Building

Daily Devotional

September 9—October 28, 2018



Church Has Left the Building 2018

Sunday, October 28, 2018----- CHLTB!!!!!!!!!!

Heaven Now!

Greetings and welcome to God's Construction Crew!

Imagine God using you to help build His kingdom here and now. Imagine, not just waiting to go to heaven, but being invited to be a part of God's kingdom work here on earth.

A carpenter must first train under a skilled carpenter to learn how to build well. We have the Great Carpenter from whom to learn, and His most exciting construction project on which to work. Share in this journey of faith, becoming part of the answer to the prayer of God's people - "*Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.*"

You are invited to prepare daily for your part of God's construction project by reading the devotional scripture for the day, considering the thoughts and questions offered, and joining in a concert of prayer, lifting special concerns to the throne of grace. Then, each Sunday we will study God's Word on the "kingdom of heaven." We will discover together that God plans to bring the great "by and by" to the here and now.

With each devotional moment, I hope you will hear your personal invitation to be God's heavenly construction crew!

Let's put on our hard hats and pick up some heavenly hammers!

Blessings!

Anita

Heaven Now- Kingdom Celebration

Scripture: *Hebrews 11:8-10*

Questions to consider:

Abraham had a vision of God's promise of the kingdom, but he never lived to see its reality. Jesus is the inauguration of the Kingdom.

What have you seen, especially in the CHLTB weekend that gives you a glimpse of God's Kingdom come?

How has God used you to bring the Kingdom?

How might God use you this week to bring the Kingdom in the lives of those around you?

Jim Elliot, a missionary in Ecuador, lost his life bringing the Gospel to the Huaorani people. Before he died, he wrote in his journal: *He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.*

Prayer concern for the day:

In the morning, pray for God's work in and through LVC in the CHLTB projects. Before you go to bed, Celebrate God's good work and the privilege of being an instrument in what God is doing in the world!!!!

Friday, October 26, 2018

Scripture: *Psalm 30:11-12*

Questions to consider:

Turn our mourning into dancing...

How are your dance moves today? Don't feel like dancing... never been very good at dancing?

God's dance moves will have you spinning around the dance floor. Hear His invitation to dance... even if just for a moment.

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for those who have lost a spouse, for comfort, for friends on the journey, for God's presence to fill aching hearts.

Saturday, October 27, 2018

God's Blessings

Scripture: *Luke 17:20-21*

Questions to consider:

Have you ever missed seeing the sunset because there are buildings in the way... or missed seeing the parade because a tall guy is standing in front of you... or missed the moment because you were busy? Jesus doesn't want you to miss the Kingdom... so don't go looking... He is right here.

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for families expecting a baby, for strength and health and the desire to raise their child in the faith.

Daily Devotional- Week I

Sunday, September 9, 2018

Heaven Now- The Holy Huddle

Scripture: *John 20:19-21*

Questions to consider:

When was the last time you gathered with others- what was the occasion, the event, the need that brought you together?

The disciples gathered after Jesus died to share their grief and to keep each other safe. But Jesus had another plan for this "holy huddle." Jesus used their gathering as the opportunity to show himself, and to blow the winds of the Spirit (Acts 2) to send the disciples out into the world.

When do you gather in a holy huddle?

Is God calling you to find a holy huddle (a bible study, a lunch group, a friend to walk with, a time for worship)?

What does God do in those times to show himself and to prepare you to go out to serve?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for Grandparents and their ministry with the little ones and not so little ones in their family.

Monday, September 10, 2018

Scripture: *Matthew 5:3*

Questions to consider:

Poor in spirit... what does that mean?

Here *poor* is not being without, but realizing your need, and recognizing you cannot supply your need. Other words-humility, trust, faith.

Who do you know is "poor" in spirit- what happens to you when you spend time with that person?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for *Manna on Main St.*, a "soup kitchen" in Lansdale. Pray for the volunteers and guests.

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

Scripture: *Matthew 5:10*

Questions to consider:

Think about our brothers and sisters in the faith who are persecuted for claiming the name of Jesus.

How do they have the courage to stand strong in the faith when it could cost them their lives?

Are there ways that we are persecuted for our faith in the US? Are you standing strong in the faith when it costs you? Who will stand with you?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for the ministry of *Help a Family*, that they would have the wisdom and resources to help families in our community. Remember the 9-11 families.

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

Scripture: Revelation 21:3

Questions to consider:

The dwelling place of God will be with people. They will be His people. And He will be there God.

STOP! The above promise is NOT contingent on you. You do not have to be super religious, or faithful, or good... God has already done this. The presence of God with humanity began the day Jesus arrived. So STOP... breathe... close your eyes... know that God is with you... the Emmanuel... You are not alone. You are His!

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for those who are looking for a job today. Pray for the peace of Christ in an anxious time. Pray for God's hand to support them and guide them to the next step.

Thursday, October 25, 2018

Scripture: Revelation 21:4

Questions to consider:

No more tears... no more mourning... no more death...

The Comforter has come to heal and to bless. These promises are not for later... they are not for our after-life. God's comfort... God's peace... God's healing is offered today. Let Him begin His Kingdom work in you.

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for families struggling with broken relationships.

Monday, October 22, 2018

Scripture: *Hebrews 11:8-10*

Questions to consider:

Abraham was looking for the land God promised. He walked a long way... left places where he thrived... where he felt safe... where he was a success to go in search of that land. He searched with great anticipation.

Are you searching for the Kingdom... whose architect and builder is God?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for the Session of Lenape Valley Church, for God's wisdom and creative Spirit.

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Scripture: *Romans 14:17*

Questions to consider:

Notice the Kingdom is not about the "stuff" of this world... but the relationship. If you want to know the peace and joy of the Kingdom, it is not reliant on the "stuff" but on being filled with the Spirit.

Ask God to fill you with the Spirit today... breathe deep.

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for the ministry of Face-to-Face in Germantown that feeds the hungry and homeless.

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Scripture: *Mark 10:15*

Questions to consider:

Receive the kingdom as a little child... what does that mean?

What experience from your childhood draws you closer to God? What have little children taught you?

Who teaches you how to be a little child again?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for new parents, for strength, for joy, for wisdom, for a yearning desire for their child to know Jesus, to love Him and to serve Him.

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Scripture: *Matthew 16:15-19*

Questions to consider:

How are the "gates of hell" challenging the church in our modern culture?

What can we do to stand strong in an increasingly secular world?

Where is the "rock"?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for the *Food Larders* that feed the hungry. May God give our community a heart for those in need.

Friday, September 14, 2018

Scripture: *Matthew 25:1-13*

Questions to consider:

Think about these 10 virgins waiting for the bridegroom.

Are you “waiting” with expectation for the coming of Jesus? Are you expecting Jesus to come in the midst of your daily lives?

What would it look like for you to have be ready for Jesus to come today?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for the women and staff at the *Women’s Recovery Center*, for healing and hope.

Saturday, September 15, 2018

Scripture: *Matthew 23:13-15*

Questions to consider:

Who are you in the passage- the religious leaders who so judge people that they feel shut out of God’s kingdom, the person who feels judged, or are you standing by watching the drama play out?

How can you help create a grace-filled welcome in the household of faith at LVC?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for those facing health decisions, for wisdom and courage.

Daily Devotional- Week VI

Sunday, October 21, 2018

Heaven Now- God’s International Building Project

Scripture: *Matthew 25:31-46*

Questions to consider:

Think about some of the hurting places in this world. A quick glance at the TV will give you your fill. It is hard to have hope when we focus on the brokenness.

Now consider what people are doing in this world to make a difference- perhaps one life at a time. Those glimpses of healing are God’s handiwork.

How might God use you today to be part of His healing work?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for those in prison, for the guilty and the wrongly accused. Pray for their chaplains as they bring the transforming news of Jesus Christ into the prison. Pray for the families of prisoners, and for those being released back into society that they may find a healthy path.

Friday, October 19, 2018

Scripture: *Isaiah 40:27-31*

Questions to consider:

Waiting is seldom easy... especially when life is challenging. *Why does God ask us to wait?* Some translations use the word “hope”. Hope often requires waiting. But hope includes a measure of trust and expectation. Think of a time you have struggled... imagine that time with hope-filled expectation that God had a plan, purpose and saving grace for you.

Will you wait today?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for those facing financial crisis- for hope and expectation that God will lead them through the storm.

Saturday, October 20, 2018

Scripture: *Jeremiah 29:11-13*

Questions to consider:

We love the idea that God has a good plan for our lives that will prosper us, and give us hope and a future. But we need to read on... the promise continue by showing us the fullness of the plan- the fullness of the Kingdom- is found in Him. Seek Him and find Him.

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for those struggling with addiction, for God’s healing grace... pray for their families caught also in the cycle of addiction.

Daily Devotional- Week II

Sunday, September 16, 2018

Heaven Now- The Great By and By- Here & Now

Scripture: *John 214:1-7*

Questions to consider:

What do you think heaven is like?

Where did you get this impression of heaven?

Look at this passage- Jesus with his disciples just before he was arrested and faced the cross. He knows that he is about to die, and he knows that their lives will become so much harder.

Notice how Jesus describes heaven- *what words does he use?*

Now focus on the phrase “with me”. *If heaven’s best description is “with me”, what does that say about heaven?*

Is it possible that we could begin to know heaven in that relationship offered to us in Jesus Christ?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for *Samaritan’s Purse*- a Christian organization that does building repair for people in need. LVC’s adult mission team has served with them several times. Pray for the families in need and volunteers.

Monday, September 17, 2018

Scripture: *Hebrews 12:22-23*

Questions to consider:

Heaven is: “the city of the living God”.
Imagine dwelling in the city of the living God.

What would life be like there?

What would you be like there?

What would our relationships be like there?

How might you begin to live into that reality now?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for the safety of the *First Responders* in our community, and for their families. Thank God for their sacrifice.

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

Scripture: *Jeremiah 3:17*

Questions to consider:

Heaven is: “where all the nations gather.”
Imagine the nations gathering in peace.

How can we live as a faith community in a way which models that gathering of the nations?

How can you model that gathering of peace in your daily interactions?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for people suffering from disasters. How can you put your prayer into action?

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Scripture: *Mark 4:30-33*

Questions to consider:

Mustard seeds... tiny yet what a strong plant grows from that beginning.

What is the tiny seed that God is planting in you?

Where do you see seed taking root and growing strong, vital plants?

Imagine Lenape Valley as a place that could offer shade and a place for nests...

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for the children who will receive the Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

Thursday, October 18, 2018

Scripture: *Matthew 6:33*

Questions to consider:

Seek the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added... Why do we go after the things rather than the Giver?

Today ask for only one thing- to know Jesus.

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for those struggling with the realities of aging.

Monday, October 15, 2018

Scripture: *Matthew 19:14*

Questions to consider:

Children are a wonderful gift- they point to the Kingdom, they can delight in the Kingdom in simple ways, they can believe in and see the Kingdom more clearly than adults.

Observe a child today. Watch the simple joy. Pray for a child today that the world will not steal away his/her innocence and openness.

Prayer Concern for the day:

Pray for caregivers, that Jesus would lighten their burden.

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Scripture: *Matthew 13:24-30*

Questions to consider:

Picture Jesus as the farmer, scattering seed. He has been scattering seed for 2000 years, planting the Kingdom wherever the soil is good. *How is your soil? What needs to happen to make your soil good for the seed to take root?*

Where do you see the seed taking root? What hinders the growth of the kingdom today?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for the children and families of *Cornerstone Christian Academy* in SW Philadelphia, who live in the midst of the poverty and violence of Kingsessing.

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

Scripture: *Revelation 7:15-17*

Questions to consider:

Look at who is “tour guide” of this city of God. And look at where the guide can take you.

Imagine drinking living water.

Imagine Him wiping your tears away.

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for the Military and their families. Pray for the Chaplains who are dedicated to helping them navigate the challenges of serving.

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Scripture: *Revelation 11:19*

Questions to consider:

The Ark of the Covenant in the Old Testament was where God centered His presence among the people. They carried the Ark with them, even into battle. They placed the Ark in the Temple in Jerusalem to center God’s presence there. Look at what happens when the Ark comes to the city of God- the power of God’s presence.

When have you know the power of God’s presence in your life?

Psalm 29:3-4 describes God’s voice as powerful. Listen today for His voice.

Prayers concern for the day:

Pray for the Deacons as they care for God’s people.

Friday, September 21, 2018

Scripture: *Philippians 2:9-11*

Questions to consider:

Notice the word “every”. Paul is not describing a form of universalism, where everyone “gets in” regardless of their faith or life. Instead, this vision shows “every knee” bowing to the One.

Does your knee bow to the One?

What would it look like to bow today?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for families that are dealing with brokenness.

Saturday, September 22, 2018

Scripture: *Revelation 21, Psalm 50:2*

Questions to consider:

Read this description of the beauty of Heaven.

What makes Heaven beautiful? Is it the structure, the gems, the gold? Or are these images trying to describe what is perhaps beyond words?

Instead of just seeing the place, imagine the beauty of being in the presence of the God who loves you completely. The beauty of heaven is not in the structure, it is in the very presence of God.

How do you sense the presence of God today?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for new ministries that God is bringing into Lenape Valley, for a grace-filled community ready to embrace change, for leadership to be wise in bringing change.

Daily Devotional- Week V

Sunday, October 14, 2018

Heaven Now- Heavenly Grammar

Scripture: *Revelation 21:1-5*

Questions to consider:

Notice the grammar of this passage- the tense of the verbs. This vision is not for what will happen someday, but for what God is doing now.

Where do you see God bringing the new heaven/ new earth reality into being now?

How might God be using you to “make everything new”?

Look today for evidence of God’s work even in this broken world to bring “new.”

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for the children and families in the YMCA preschool program at LVC. Pray for their teachers and leadership, for a healthy, caring environment. Pray that the church can make good connections with the families.

Friday, October 12, 2018

Scripture: *Matthew 13:33*

Questions to consider:

The Kingdom of Heaven is like leaven in the wheat...

How is God working the leaven into your wheat- that will make your bread rise?

Where is God at work?

Are you cooperating with God's baking project or are you preventing the leaven from working in you?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for those who volunteer in the ministry. Thank God for their sacrifice. Pray for their encouragement. How does God want to use you?

Saturday, October 13, 2018

Scripture: *Matthew 3:1-6*

Questions to consider:

John the Baptist was called to "prepare the way for the Lord." *How are you called to be a modern day John the Baptist?*

Notice his odd clothing and unusual ways. *How might you look odd to this world if you answer the call to "a voice of one calling in the desert"? Will you answer the call?*

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for the ministry of *WorthWhile Wear*, an organization that rescues women out of human trafficking. Pray for the women housed at the Well.

Daily Devotional- Week II

Sunday, September 23, 2018

Heaven Now- Heavenly Valleys

Scripture: *Psalms 23*

Questions to consider:

When was the last time you journeyed through the valleys of life? Look back at that time.

Can you see God in the midst of those days?

Can you see His "rod and staff"?

St. Paul wrote in Romans 8:28- "we know that in all things God works for good"...

Looking back, can you see the good that God brought out of that valley experience?

Is it possible that even in the valleys we catch a glimpse of "heaven"?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for Pine Run Elementary School, for the teachers, the students, the families. Pray that LVC finds ways to be a good neighbor to the school and their families.

Monday, September 24, 2018

Scripture: *Matthew 6:19-21*

Questions to consider:

Have you noticed that the things we buy are designed to break? Manufacturers make us never ending consumers. The things of this world decay, rust, break.

What are the treasures of this world that you desire?

Jesus is inviting you to treasure the things of His world.

What are the treasures being offered to you?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for *Aid for Friends* as they seek to feed the hungry.

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Scripture: *Acts 14:22*

Questions to consider:

“Through tribulation you must enter the kingdom...”

The early Christians found that the persecution they faced strengthened their faith and bonded them as a community.

Think of what happens to you in hard times. *Are you more open to the presence of God, or do those hard times turn you away?*

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for victims of the slave trade, even in Bucks Co.

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

Scripture: *Matthew 4:17*

Questions to consider:

The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand...

Jesus is announcing the kingdom... not when we die... not at the end of the world... but in that moment... in Him.

What does it mean for the Kingdom of Heaven... the Kingdom of God to exist here and now?

If Jesus has inaugurated the beginning of the Kingdom, are we just passive receivers of this gift, or instruments through which God is bringing the kingdom?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for our missionaries as they serve in different cultures, that they may be able to introduce people to Jesus and help them grow in faith.

Thursday, October 11, 2018

Scripture: *Matthew 5:5*

Questions to consider:

What does it mean to be meek?

Jesus was called meek.

How can God use the meek to bring the Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for the ministry of the *Gift of Life House* that supports transplant patients and families.

Monday, October 8, 2018

Scripture: *Psalm 34:108*

Questions to consider:

Taste and see that the Lord is good...

How can you taste the Lord? Where do you find His presence in your daily life? Do you stop long enough to experience His presence, to be fed by His presence, to enjoy His presence?

Do you need help to know how to discover the presence of God today? Ask a friend, a person at church, a pastor, a child... Don't miss the feast!

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for the small group ministry of LVC, that more would yearn to grow together in their faith.

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Scripture: *Matthew 6:10*

Questions to consider:

How many times have you prayed the Lord's Prayer? Have you ever considered what it meant to pray for the Kingdom- God's Kingdom- to come "on earth as it is in heaven"? Spend time today letting God stir your imagination about what God's Kingdom on earth can/ should look like.

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for our nation's leaders, for Godly men and women to stand for God's call for our nation.

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

Scripture: *Mark 10:23-27*

Questions to consider:

Jesus is talking about a stumbling block that can keep people from coming into the kingdom- money.

What is the stumbling block to which you cling that keeps you from fully embracing God's way?

Notice Jesus' final comment- "with man impossible- with God possible."

What does God want to do in your life to open you to the Kingdom of God?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for nursing home residents and the staff.

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Scripture: *Luke 19*

Questions to consider:

Jesus teaches a parable and then lives out that parable during Holy Week.

What are the challenges that face you right now, what are the forces against you? What are you suffering?

Remember today that you have a Savior who has walked that same path and understands your suffering.

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for the homeless today. Remember Jesus' teaching: "whatever you do for the least of these you do for me."

Friday, September 28, 2018

Scripture: *Acts 4:8-13*

Questions to consider:

Peter is being condemned for healing a crippled man. *When have you been condemned, or had to pay a price, for doing what is good and right?*

Notice the reference to Jesus as the “stone the builders rejected.” He is the “cornerstone” of what God is building here.

How is God using you and your sacrifice to build onto that “cornerstone”?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for world peace. How are we called to be part of God’s instrument of peace?

Saturday, September 29, 2018

Scripture: *Hebrews 4:14-16*

Questions to consider:

We have a Great High Priest (Jesus) who is able to “sympathize” with our weaknesses. He has been tempted in every way just as we are.

What is the weakness that causes you to stumble today?

Notice that Jesus has been tempted but has not sinned... *how can his victory over sin give you strength for the journey?*

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for world leaders, for wisdom, for peace-inclined hearts, for God’s will working through them.

Daily Devotional- Week IV

Sunday, October 7, 2018

Heaven Now- Taste and See

Scripture: *Matthew 4:17*

Questions to consider:

What does Jesus mean when he says, “the kingdom of heaven is at hand?”

Can you see the kingdom?

Have you had a taste of the Kingdom?

The Hallelujah Chorus declares, “The Kingdom of this world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ.” *What does that mean?*

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for Refugees looking for safe haven. Pray for the children... for the families... for the Christians who are homeless because of their faith.

Friday, October 5, 2018

Scripture: *Colossians 3:15*

Questions to consider:

Peace... *do you have peace in your life? What is disturbing your peace? What is blocking you from knowing peace in your inner being?*

Turn back to the One who is the Prince of Peace for His healing. Then let that gift of peace, even if it is just a glimpse of peace, inspire you to be thankful. Count your blessings!

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for those living alone, for God's presence, for good friends, for peace in the quiet moments.
How might you ease someone's loneliness?

Saturday, October 6, 2018

Scripture: *Colossians 3:16*

Questions to consider:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... Pick a verse each day and let it sink in during the course of the day.

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus... Imagine how your actions might change, how your speech might soften if you did it in the name of Jesus... Try that today.

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for the ministry of *Poverty Resolutions* in Haiti, and for the healing of the unrest in that country. Offer a prayer of thanks for the safe trip of our team in June, 2018

Daily Devotional- Week III

Sunday September 30, 2018

Heaven Now- Citizens of Heaven

Scripture: *Philippians 3:20-4:1*

Questions to consider:

Paul uses the image of being a "citizen". Citizens of Rome were expected to talk like, and look like, and have the morality of Rome.

What would we look like, and talk like and what kind of morality would we have if we remembered that we are citizens of heaven?

Are we living as reflections of heaven?

Do others see heaven in us?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for people facing terminal illness, for peace, for relief from suffering, for God's presence in the midst, for their families and caregivers sharing the journey with them.

Monday, October 1, 2018

Scripture: *Colossians 3:12*

Questions to consider:

Take the words of this verse one at a time: God's chosen people... holy... dearly loved. Imagine yourself as a *chosen* child of God... Imagine yourself as *holy*- set apart for a purpose of God's design... Imagine yourself as *dearly loved*... let the word *dearly* take your breath away. You have not earned these descriptions, they just are who God has made you to be. Live into that reality today.

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for people struggling with suicidal thoughts, for families in the grief after a suicide.
God's healing grace.

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

Scripture: *Colossians 3:12*

Questions to consider:

Look at the wardrobe that you are being given as a Child of the King- your Kingdom clothes.
Have you tried them on?

Which one do you like to wear?

Have you thrown any of them out?

Which of these do you need to wear today?

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for the staff of Lenape Valley Church.

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Scripture: *Colossians 3:13*

Questions to consider:

Imagine trying on the garment of forgiveness today.
Who do you need to forgive? Do they deserve it?
Do you deserve the forgiveness of God?

Breathe in God's grace and let that grace heal your heart. His grace, not your efforts, will be the pathway to forgiveness.

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for those struggling to forgive.

Thursday, October 4, 2018

Scripture: *Colossians 3:14*

Questions to consider:

What does it mean to put on the garment of love? Who wears that garment in your life? What does it feel like to wear that garment? What has damaged your garment of love- spend a moment with the One who can mend the tears.

Allow His love to fill you so that you overflow with His love into the life of another- remember you are chosen, holy, dearly loved.

Prayer concern for the day:

Pray for Sunday School teachers that they would joyfully, creatively and Biblically share the good news of Jesus Christ.