



BAKER HEIGHTS ON TEXAS AVE

CHURCH of CHRIST

Sunday, March 22, 2020



Today is a day the Lord has made,
let us rejoice & be glad in it.

Focus on the Positive. God is Good.

FAITH AND COURAGE IN TROUBLED TIMES

For the over 50 years that I have been an adult, I cannot remember a time when our country has been so unsettled, so fearful, and so filled with worry. We, as God's children, should not be filled with this turmoil we find in the world today. Yet we are to some extent. So the question we should ask ourselves is how do we put peace and tranquility back into our daily lives? The answer is found in two words: **FAITH AND COURAGE**.

Faith is the "assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Courage is the ability to face life's difficulties even though we may be afraid. "God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity by the power of love and self-discipline" (2 Timothy 1:7). There is a direct link between faith and courage. If our faith is strong, we will be strong and courageous; but if our faith is weak, we will lack the courage we need to stand strong as God's children. We need a strong faith to face the difficulties we are confronted with in our nation today.

How do we develop this strong faith and courageous heart? As Christians, we do this by putting God first in our lives because a strong faith is based on God's word. In Philippians 4:19, Paul tells us that God will meet all our needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus. This type of faith and heart is developed when we remember that Jesus told us "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27). With this assurance, we can face whatever obstacles life places in our path.

The second factor in developing a strong, faithful and courageous heart is prayer. In Matthew 2:22, we are told that whatever we ask, we will receive – if we have faith. In times of uncertainty, prayer strengthens our faith and brings us closer to God. Prayer helps to give us power and courage to follow the path our God has laid out for us; and ... He gives us this promise in Philippians 4:6-7, which says "Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Finally, because of our faithful God, we can courageously face what the future holds for us. We know that if God has a place in his heart for a lowly sparrow we, who are created in His own image, need not worry. **Our God watches over us**. (Matthew 10:29-31)

Ed Cowart

PANTRY INFORMATION

Needs: Any Non-Perishable Items • Toilet Paper • Beef Stew • Chili • Tuna • Canned Fruit • Pancake Syrup

Until further notice the PANTRY is by appointment only on Wednesdays from 5:30 – 6 p.m.

IF you need to utilize the pantry, please call the office for an appointment – 325-692-6974.

Your help is needed: Please be aware that pantry needs are likely to increase in the next few weeks.

***** Youth News: All LTC practices are suspended - Students Check with Coach *****

Prayer List

Week of March 22, 2020

BHCC MEMBERS:

- * Manuel Eastman – recovering at home from surgery on toes
- * Jena Madeley – chemo treatments
- * Nelda Stewart– thanksgiving for prognosis that she is cancer free
- * Nancy Taylor – Pace-Maker surgery
- * Tyler & Shandon Short – job search
- * Rex Tidwell – recovering at home from surgery on foot 03/16

FRIENDS AND FAMILY:

Travis Bennett (nephew of Roxanne Hello)
Fed & Ben Childers (brother and nephew of Carolyn Bush)
Beth Boone (daughter-in-law Nancy Taylor)
Lori Kashorek (friend of J&D Hanson)
Philip Lana (brother-in-law of Chris Lana)
Betty Mast (mother of Pam Sullivan)
Mr. Short (father of Tyler Short)
Jan Valentine (former member) fractured hip

ALL MISSIONARIES:

Chipata Bible College – Zambia Court hearing April 13th
All Military & First Responders
All Patients and Workers in Nursing Homes and Hospitals

SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF:

Jean Gibbs (Grandmother of Ryan King)– who died 03/05 in Dallas area

Those Battling Cancer:

Jena Madeley; Lewis Maness, Kay Procter?
Larry Taylor, Jesse Thomas, Minnie Woody

All our family members & friends dealing with cancer & treatments.

Our Homebound Members:

Brenda Amonett, Eldon Amonett, Phyllis Bonner, Janet Bruns?
Mamie Crane, Norma Dotson, Leroy & Mary Mason, Jo Potter,
Frances Pruet, Melinda Simmons, Dean & Nelda Stewart, Laveta Youngquist

NEWSFLASH: “Today the Pharmaceutical company Roche has announced ... that its research has developed a vaccine for the Corona virus.”

Imagine how such a newsflash like that would be received today: Imagine the relief, the joy, the hallelujahs! With the continually increasing infection and mortality rates, the steady fall of the stock market, news like this would be extraordinary indeed!

This good news could, however, only be accepted in faith. It would take some time before the vaccine could be sufficiently tested, produced and distributed. It would take a while before we went to the doctor for a shot. During this waiting period, the virus would continue to wreak havoc on our lives, causing sickness and death. The difference is that suddenly we have hope! There is light at the end of the tunnel. The fear of a helpless situation is allayed! Thankfulness would celebrate a comeback!

In our current situation, such news could be compared in some ways to the “mother of all good news”, the good news of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God. “Patient Zero” was Adam. A virus jumped from a snake to a human. It was a dangerous “cardio-virus”, which we would call “sin”. It attacks and hardens the human heart. The symptoms are arrogance, stubbornness, jealousy and selfishness. The rate of infection and the rate of mortality from this virus are 100%. “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all people because all sinned” (Romans 5:12).

The situation was bleak. Everyone had to reckon with death – and then came the breakthrough. God himself made a house-call. He sent his only son with the cure: his own blood. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ disabled the deadly sting of the virus. This is surely the greatest of good news? Death and Satan have lost their bite! All of God’s creatures can be healed!

This is indeed good news, but for now it can only be accepted through faith. Even though Jesus has already developed the remedy, we must wait in faith for him to return and administer it. In the meantime, we are still fighting the sin virus. We occasionally still fall for the Devil’s lies. We still suffer death. But because we believe the good news that Jesus rose from the dead and because we trust that he is coming back to raise us from the dead, we have hope!

When the Lord returns, he will transform our bodies into powerful, glorious, immortal, “virus-free” versions of our present selves (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). Then we will be at home in a new creation where the sin-virus no longer exists (Romans 8:20-23).

Have you heard the good news? Jesus said “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

The tumultuous rush of events these days may very well be troubling to us. But we of all people can take heart! Despite the dangers and threats, we can know inner peace when we believe and trust the good news about Jesus’ victory over the curse of the sin-virus! We can live out our lives in the hope of the resurrection.

We have all heard the tip about washing our hands while singing “happy birthday”? Here is a tip for our spiritual hygiene in a virus infected world: “Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” (James 4:8) Maybe we could think about praying while we wash. It may take a bit longer, but the cleansing effect can go much deeper. It can go to the heart, where it really matters.

David Tarjan (Missionary in Zurich, Switzerland)