



LIVING HOPE BAPTIST
CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, "CHAMPIONS FOR CHRIST, WILL BE JULY 6TH - 10TH FROM 5:30 - 8:00 PM AT OUR EAGLE WAY CAMPUS.
- KIDS' CAMP WILL BE JULY 17TH - 20TH AT CROSSINGS CAMP - JONATHAN CREEK IN HARDIN, KY.
- YOUTH CAMP WILL BE JULY 20TH - 24TH AT FUGE CAMP IN RIDGECREST, NC.
- OUR NEXT CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING WILL BE SUNDAY, JULY 19TH AT 6:00 PM AT OUR CALVARY CAMPUS.
- WE WILL HAVE A MEMBERSHIP CLASS ON JULY 26TH FOLLOWING THE 10:45 AM SERVICE AT THE EAGLE WAY CAMPUS. LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.
- OUR OKLAHOMA MISSION TRIP WILL BE JULY 27TH - 31ST.
- WE WILL HAVE A SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON ON THURSDAY, JULY 30TH AT NOON. THE MEAL WILL BE CATERED, BUT PLEASE BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE.

CHURCH EVENTS

- JULY 6TH - 10TH - VBS
- JULY 17TH - 20TH - KIDS' CAMP
- JULY 20TH - 24TH - YOUTH CAMP
- JULY 19TH - CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING
- JULY 26TH - MEMBERSHIP CLASS
- JULY 27TH - 31ST - OKLAHOMA MISSION TRIP
- JULY 30TH - SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON

The Exception, Not the Rule

From Pastor Jacob Workman

IT'S EASY, IN OUR COMFORTABLE BIBLE BELT LIVES, TO OVERLOOK THE TRIALS THAT CHRISTIANS FACE AROUND THE WORLD. WE ARE GIVEN A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE IN A COUNTRY THAT ACCEPTS AND EVEN RESPECTS THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. ALBEIT, THAT ACCEPTANCE AND RESPECT IS EVER DWINDLING, YET THERE ARE TRACES OF IT STILL HERE. AS I REFLECT ON OUR COUNTRIES 250TH BIRTHDAY, I AM GRATEFUL THAT PROVIDENTIALLY, OUR FOUNDING FATHERS ENSHRINED IN OUR CONSTITUTION THAT FREEDOM TO LIVE OUT OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH ACCORDING TO ONE'S OWN CONVICTIONS. I AM REMINDED THAT OUR COUNTRY IS THE EXCEPTION, NOT THE RULE. FOR MOST OF HISTORY (AND MY OWN PERSONAL BELIEF WOULD INCLUDE THE FUTURE), CHRISTIANITY HAS BEEN MET WITH FIERCE, OFTEN VIOLENT RESISTANCE. I HAVE BEEN REFRESHING MY KNOWLEDGE OF CHURCH HISTORY AND WHILE READING, I AM REMINDED OF THE HORRORS MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST HAVE ENDURED BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH. I WANT TO SHARE WITH A STORY THAT, THOUGH HEARTBREAKING, IS ENCOURAGING. IT IS THE STORY OF A YOUNG SLAVE-GIRL NAMED BLANDINA AND HER UNWAVERING FAITH IN THE LORD.

"THE ENTIRE ANGER OF THE PEOPLE, GOVERNOR, AND SOLDIERS WAS STIRRED UP FURIOUSLY AGAINST SANCTUS, THE DEACON FROM VIENNE, AND MATURUS, A NEW CONVERT, BUT A NOBLE FIGHTER, AND ATTALUS, A NATIVE OF PERGAMUM WHERE HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN A PILLAR AND SUPPORT, AND BLANDINA, THROUGH WHOM CHRIST DEMONSTRATED THAT THINGS WHICH SEEM LOWLY AND OBSCURE AND CONTEMPTIBLE TO MEN ARE OF GREAT GLORY WITH GOD, THROUGH HER LOVE TOWARD HIM REVEALED IN POWER, NOT BOASTING IN MERE APPEARANCE. WE ALL SHUDDERED, AND BLANDINA'S EARTHLY MISTRESS, HERSELF ONE OF THE MARTYRS, FEARED THAT ON ACCOUNT OF BODILY WEAKNESS, SHE WOULD BE UNABLE TO MAKE BOLD CONFESSION. BLANDINA WAS FILLED WITH SUCH POWER THAT SHE WAS DELIVERED AND EXALTED ABOVE THOSE WHO WERE TORTURING HER BY TURNS, FROM MORNING TILL EVENING IN EVERY WAY, SO THAT THEY CONFESSED THEY WERE CONQUERED, AND COULD NOT DO ANYTHING MORE TO HER. THEY WERE AMAZED AT HER ENDURANCE, BECAUSE HER WHOLE BODY WAS MANGLED AND BROKEN; THEY DECLARED THAT JUST ONE OF THESE FORMS OF TORTURE WAS ENOUGH TO DESTROY LIFE, LET ALONE SO MANY AND SO GREAT SUFFERINGS. BUT THE BLESSED WOMAN, CONTENDING NOBLY, GREW IN STRENGTH BY CONFESSING HER FAITH; SHE FOUND COMFORT AND REST AND RELIEF FROM THE PAIN OF HER SUFFERINGS BY EXCLAIMING, I AM A CHRISTIAN, AND WE DO NOTHING VILE.

BLANDINA WAS HUNG ON A STAKE AND EXPOSED TO THE WILD BEASTS WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO ATTACK HER. SHE APPEARED AS THOUGH SHE WERE HANGING ON A CROSS; BECAUSE OF HER ARDENT PRAYERS, SHE INSPIRED THE OTHER COMBATANTS WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM. THEY LOOKED UPON HER IN HER ORDEAL, AND THEY SAW WITH THEIR OUTWARD EYES, IN THE SHAPE OF THEIR SISTER, THE ONE WHO WAS CRUCIFIED FOR THEM, THAT HE MIGHT CONVINCE THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM THAT EVERYONE WHO SUFFERS FOR CHRIST'S GLORY HAS FELLOWSHIP FOREVER WITH THE LIVING GOD. SINCE NONE OF THE WILD BEASTS AT THAT TIME TOUCHED BLANDINA, SHE WAS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE STAKE, AND THROWN AGAIN INTO PRISON, PRESERVED FOR ANOTHER CONTEST.

ON THE LAST DAY OF THESE CONTESTS, BLANDINA WAS AGAIN BROUGHT IN, TOGETHER WITH PONTICUS A BOY WHO WAS ABOUT FIFTEEN YEARS OLD. EVERY DAY THEY HAD BEEN BROUGHT IN TO SEE THE SUFFERINGS OF THE OTHERS AND HAD BEEN PRESSURED TO SWEAR BY THE PAGAN IDOLS. BUT THEY STOOD STEADFAST AND DESPISED THE IDOLS, SO THAT THE MOB BECAME FURIOUS; THEY HAD NO COMPASSION FOR THE BOY'S YOUTH, NOR ANY RESPECT FOR THE TENDER SEX OF THE WOMAN. SO, THEY SUBJECTED THEM TO ALL THE TERRIBLE SUFFERINGS, AND TOOK THEM THROUGH THE WHOLE COURSE OF TORTURE, REPEATEDLY PRESSING THEM TO SWEAR BY THE IDOLS, BUT TO NO AVAIL. PONTICUS WAS ENCOURAGED BY HIS SISTER, SO THAT EVEN THE PAGANS COULD SEE SHE WAS CONFIRMING HIS STRENGTH. AFTER NOBLY ENDURING EVERY TORTURE, HE GAVE UP HIS SPIRIT. BUT THE BLESSED BLANDINA, LAST OF ALL, HAVING ENCOURAGED HER CHILDREN LIKE A NOBLE MOTHER, AND SENT THEM AHEAD IN VICTORY TO THE KING, HERSELF SUFFERED ALL THEIR CONFLICTS, AND HURRIED AFTER THEM, EXULTING AND REJOICING IN HER DEPARTURE AS IF SHE WERE CALLED TO A MARRIAGE SUPPER, RATHER THAN BEING THROWN TO WILD BEASTS. AFTER WHIPPING HER, GIVING HER TO THE BEASTS, AND BURNING HER WITH HOT IRONS, THE AUTHORITIES FINALLY DROPPED HER INTO A BASKET AND THREW HER TO A BULL. THE BEAST GORED HER AGAIN AND AGAIN, BUT SHE WAS NOW INDIFFERENT TO ALL THAT BEFELL HER, BECAUSE OF HER HOPE, HER FIRM HOLD ON ALL THAT HER FAITH MEANT, AND HER COMMUNION WITH CHRIST. THEN SHE TOO WAS SACRIFICED. THE PAGANS THEMSELVES ADMITTED THAT THEY HAD NEVER KNOWN A WOMAN SUFFER SO MUCH OR SO LONG."

AS WE ARE REMINDED OF A SLAVE GIRL THAT HAS BEEN ALL BUT FORGOTTEN TO MOST, I FIND ENCOURAGEMENT KNOWING THAT SHE WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN BY THE LORD. STORIES OF MARTYRS, SUCH AS THIS, BRING A MIXTURE OF SADNESS AND ENCOURAGEMENT. SAD THAT THIS YOUNG WOMAN ENDURED SO MUCH PAIN BUT ENCOURAGED THAT SHE KEPT THE FAITH. FRIENDS, MIGHT I INVITE YOU REFLECT ON THE PRIVILEGE THAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO PRACTICE OUR FAITH FREELY, BUT MAY WE NEVER FORGET THE SAINTS THAT HAVE DIED FOR THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL THAT WE OFTEN TAKE FOR GRANTED.

Jacob Workman