



Islam in Turmoil

Recently, I received my friend, Dan McNerney's Winter 2015 "News From The Frontier". Dan works for Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship. I am going to share excerpts from it with you. It is very enlightening and full of Christian joy in the midst of the turmoil and hatred in our world, which we are seeing and hearing expressed even by Christian friends.

"I have just returned from an eight-day trip to the United Arab Emirates...As I was boarding my plane in the late afternoon of Friday, November 13th, TV monitors were reporting on the tragic events in Paris. I felt even more determined to lead this trip into the heart of the Muslim world for the sake of Christ's kingdom.

"In the UAE, we met with leaders of the underground church in Iran which has now become the fastest growing church in the world. Seventy percent of Iranians are under the age of 35. They are generally glued to their computers and satellite TV's, hungering for contact with the outside world! Less than 10 percent of Iranians attend mosque for Friday prayers. The oppressive and brutal regime of the Ayatollah Khomeini is causing the vast majority of Iranians to reject Islam. We heard reports that there are now 2-3 Million members of the underground church in Iran, comprising a lively network of house meetings and creative fellowships together throughout the country.

"We met with Arab Christian leaders in the UAE who are actively discipling Arab Muslims who are approaching them in droves, wanting to learn more about the Prince of Peace, Jesus. These Arab Muslims sometimes travel great distances from neighboring countries of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Oman in order to meet with Christian leaders in a more open and tolerant environment of the UAE. Many of these inquirers are becoming followers of Jesus in Saudi Arabia.

"For the past fourteen years dating back to the atrocities of September 11th, 2001, Islam worldwide has been in turmoil. The aggressive and barbaric acts of Al Qaeda, the Taliban, Ayatollah and now ISIS, among other equally fundamentalist, militant Muslim movements, have caused the average Muslim to question the validity and truth claims of their religion. The radicals are sincere in their Muslim faith, quoting from the Quran and Hadith as they behead, stone, and murder people who disagree with them – whether they be Muslim or people representing a different religion. As a result, millions of Muslims worldwide are allowing themselves to think critically for the first time in order to investigate whether Muhammad's teachings are fit for the 21st century; and whether they represent the ultimate truth about God in the first place.

"As difficult as it is to say, Al Qaeda and ISIS and other fundamentalist groups have done more to help Muslims worldwide discover the love and peace of God in Jesus Christ than any other events during the last 1400 years dating back to the beginning of Islam. It speaks to an awful truth in history – that the failings of ideologies or theologies often must crash and burn, causing great harm before the majority of people influenced by them realize the bankruptcy of their claims.

"My group and I were blessed on our trip to hear firsthand reports of people's lives who had been transformed by the Living Spirit of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We were also pleased to witness the UAE proclaiming its support for France in their common battle against radical Islam. After all, ISIS has slaughtered far more Muslims than people of other religions for not being faithful and fundamentalist enough."

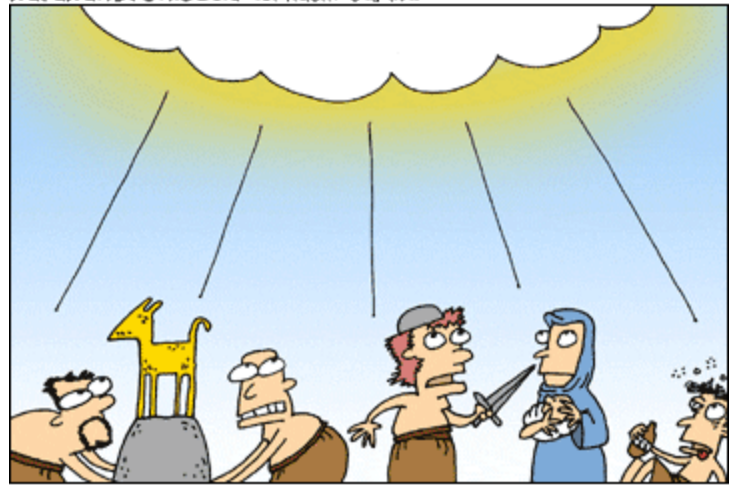
I hope you have been blessed by what Dan has shared with us. May our attitudes not be like ISIS, but like Jesus and what he would do.

God bless! Fred

The best
vitamin for a
Christian is B1.



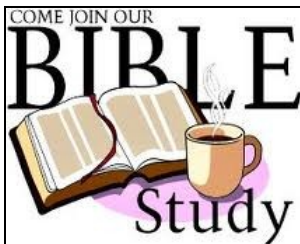
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Thanks to Jim Ellis

04-07-2004

DON'T MAKE ME COME DOWN THERE!



THURSDAYS, FROM 11:00 A.M. TO NOON IN
MEMORIAL HALL. MEN & WOMEN WELCOME.

PW&M Monthly Meeting



PW& M will not meet in January or February
We will resume our monthly meetings in
March.

If you would like to read the "Connection" newsletter
online, go to our website;

<http://www.presbyterianchurchofbullshoals.com>

Connection Online

Click on the 'Info Center' tab at the top, then on the
drop-down menu, click on "Presbyterian Connection",
then choose the month of the newsletter you would
like to read. The most recent newsletter will be at the
top.

Coffee & Fellowship

Be sure to drop in for coffee, maybe a
Danish or cookies and wonderful fellowship on
Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in Memorial
Hall!



Our Church Face Book page

<https://www.facebook.com/presbyterian.shoals>

Church phone # - 870-445-4622

Our church email address

presch@suddenlinkmail.com



WORSHIP IN JANUARY

JANUARY 3rd
“Keystone Living”
Mark 1:1-15
COMMUNION



JANUARY 10th
“The Keystone of Worship”
Mark 2:23-28
POT LUCK

JANUARY 17th
“The Keystone of Solidarity”
Mark 3:20-30
BLESSING OF THE FOOD PANTRY



JANUARY 24th
“The Keystone of Growth”
Mark 4:21-23



JANUARY 31st
“The Keystone of Healing”
Mark 5:21-43
MINUTE FOR MISSION



5th SUNDAY SING
6:00 P.M. - First Baptist Church





CHURCH USHERS/GREETERS

January 3 - Ken Hobart & Dr. Simons
 January 10 - Roger & Celia Millard
 January 17 - Irene Bere & Betty Craig
 January 24 - Irene Bere & Amy Johnson
 January 31 - Faye Brackett & Sandy Erickson

COMMUNION SERVERS

Ed & Peni Lloyd

PRAYER LIST FOR CONGREGATIONS, PRESBYTERY OF AR.- 2016

January 3 - First, Clarksville
 January 10 - Mt. Vernon, Pea Ridge
 January 17 - First, Benton
 January 24 - Univ. of the Ozarks, Clarksville
 January 31 - First, McGehee



Park Hill, North Little Rock
 First, Huntsville
 Active Ruling Elders
 Faith, Horseshoe Bend
 Inquirers & Candidates f/Ministry

PLEASE NOTIFY PAT ERLEWINE IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO SHOULD BE ON OUR PRAYER LIST.

BIRTHDAYS

January

January 9 - Mary Kerr
 January 19 - Bob Hobbs



February

February 7 - Paula Sheppard
 February 27 - Bob Richardson

ANNIVERSARIES

January 28 - Ray & Pat Erlewine



No February Anniversaries

LIBRARY LINES - JANUARY 2016



Our featured book this month is a biography by Mary Cartledgehayes entitled: "GRACE".

"Mary Cartledgehayes's life was going along swimmingly. Her husband, Fred, was about to take early retirement so the two of them could embark on a life of travel and leisure. There was just one problem: God. It had all started when the roof of her new gold Chevette became transparent and radiance poured in on her head. Now it was clear that a life of leisure was out; Mary embarked on the arduous, exhausting, and wonderful experience of becoming a minister. *Grace* is her story.

Divinity school wasn't an obvious choice for Mary in middle age, once a wildly unconventional single mother of two who'd been twice divorced by age twenty-five, who had pretty dresses in her closet and expletives on the tip of her tongue. *Grace* reveals how an all-too-ordinary woman comes to terms with the sometimes devastating impact of the sacred. With unabashed exuberance, Mary tells of leading a congregation as its first female pastor, of her moving struggle to knit the congregation around its most ailing member, and her painful realization that in order to live faithfully she must leave a job she loves. Simultaneously, she decides to take up piano and discovers a pursuit whose spiritual rewards are both abundant and unexpected.

Inspired and inspiring, *Grace* is a wickedly delightful account of spiritual and personal renewal in mid life and a lively testament to the transformative power of grace in all its many guises."

Faye Brackett, Librarian



MISSION MINUTE

JANUARY-2016



Choose Welcome, Not Fear

November 17, 2015
Office of the General Assembly
Louisville

We are a world grieving. We mourn the many deaths, not only in Paris, but also in Beirut, Baghdad, and Egypt. Any sense of security we have had is badly compromised by these horrific events; moreover, our fear of ISIS grows with every successful execution of its violent agenda.

Much has been taken from us but we still hold the choice as to how we react in our grief and fear. Many politicians have rushed from grief to fearful judgment. More than half of the governors of our states have attempted to protect their citizens by issuing declarations denying entry of Syrian refugees into their states (as if all of the potential terrorists are Syrian). Some have gone so far as to call for denial of entry to all refugees at the present time, as if that will guarantee safety to the citizens of their state.

As U.S. governors pledge to refuse Syrian refugees within their states and some presidential hopefuls promise to abandon the refugee program altogether, we the people have a choice to make. We can choose to follow those who would have us hide in fear or we can choose hope.

Our nation, for decades, has chosen hope and welcome for those fleeing war and persecution. Since 1975, more than three million refugees have found safety and security within our nation's borders. Right now 11 million Syrians cannot go to school, tend to their land, or raise their children in the place they know as home. They cannot do these things because they, themselves, have been terrorized for far too long by numerous factions, including their own government.

Do we choose to abandon our plan to protect these Syrians because the people who have been threatening them are now threatening the West as well? ISIS has taken lives; they have taken our sense of security. Do we now hand over our hope and compassion to them? Obviously, we need to move forward with a disciplined response, expediting security checks such as those employed by the U.S. refugee admission program. To refuse certain persons who are fleeing terror and persecution because they are "Syrian" or of some other particular ethnic group is unjust and may be illegal under U.S. law. We can be disciplined and, at the same time, led to love beyond our own limited, fearful vision.

After the crucifixion of Jesus, the disciples hid in fear. They locked the doors but God had another plan. Jesus appeared to them and said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you" (Jn. 20:21). We were not meant to hide. We were meant to walk out in hope and compassion. Author, poet, and peace activist Wendell Berry wrote, "Healing is impossible in loneliness; it is the opposite of loneliness. Conviviality is healing. To be healed we must come with all the other creatures to the feast of Creation" (*The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays*, "The Body and the Earth," p. 99). The way to end terror is to prove that those who demonize us are wrong. We are not a heartless secular culture. We must witness to the Gospel with generous hospitality. To hide in fear is a mistake. Fear is the ammunition of terror. Hope is the best defense.

- Submitted by The Mission Committee



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN & MEN

General Meeting of Presbyterian Women & Men

December 8, 2015, Hank and Katie's

Our December breakfast meeting and Christmas party of PW&M was well-attended with 18 members and guests. Our greeters today were Irene Bere and Mary Kerr. Acting Moderator this month, Amy Johnson opened the meeting at 9 AM with prayer and a blessing for our meal together, followed by a devotion reading from Rev. Charles Stanley. We all wished Jewel Riley a happy 90th birthday this week and welcomed several first-time or returning members.

REPORTS:

Secretary, Amy Johnson asked for any changes or corrections to last month's meeting minutes. There were none so it will be placed on file and posted on the PW&M bulletin board and printed for the Connection. She also passed around a volunteer sign-up for 2016 meeting duties and has the first three months of 2016 meetings now covered. She presented four correspondences of thank-yous and greetings from former member, Joanne Kahm. Irene Bere also shared conversations with Dot Pitts and Mary Lou Guthrie.

Treasurer, Mary Kerr presented her report for the month of November: beginning balance of \$2353.28 with total receipts of \$458.00 and total disbursements of \$681.38, leaving a balance on Nov. 30 of \$2129.90. She shared that PW&M donated a total for the year of \$2619.48. She will make a detailed report for the whole of the year in January for the congregation.

Announcements by Pastor Fred Taylor included that, as he is away for a brief vacation, Gary Adler will fill the pulpit this coming Sunday and that we will have our monthly pot luck lunch that day as well. Also our Christmas Eve service will be at 6 PM.

Missions: Speaking for chairperson, Linda Allensworth, Mary Kerr announced that the coordinating team made the decision to spend from our abundance in our treasury, \$800 at the end of our year. This will be donated thus: \$400 to Bull Shoals Food Pantry; \$200 to Flippin Schools Backpack Program; \$100 to Bull Shoals' Ministerial Alliance Fund; and \$100 to our Presbytery's Disaster Preparedness and Response.

OLD BUSINESS:

Peni Lloyd, our 2015 co-chairperson for October's Baked Potato Bash fundraiser, gave rave reviews for the team that made it so successful and she will be our chairperson for 2016.

Vicky Bair gave us an update on this season's Head Start Christmas project that our church family supports with donations. She has purchased gifts, wrappings, etc. for 19 Head Start children and will announce the date she plans to package up everything for delivery. She has spent \$482.59, which was all donated by our church members and friends.

NEW BUSINESS:

We are coming in to our winter break and will resume our monthly meetings in the spring of 2016 with our first meeting on March 8, 2016. Mark your new calendars now! Greeters signed up for this meeting are Betty Aaron and Mary Kerr with Peni Lloyd giving a devotion. Our Moderator for the year will be Steve Broskovak.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Vicky Bair is our hostess today for our Christmas Bingo game with lots of favors and prizes for Bingo. Thank you for your generosity and this tradition! Let the party begin – with another tradition from Mary and Bill Kerr : our eggnog toast for a healthy and prosperous PW&M New Year! Acting Moderator, Amy closed the meeting at 10 AM and closed the party at 10:40 AM with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by secretary, Amy Johnson

Till We Speak Again

MILLIE IS ON VACATION THIS MONTH



Evangelism and You

With the holidays quickly approaching, this is a wonderful time to show God's love within us.

During the holidays, many people suffer from sadness or desperation as they try to handle all that is going on around them while they struggle to manage on a day to day basis. The loss of a loved one is amplified at this time of year. For many, there is not enough money to be able to give gifts or bake or decorate; so look around your home, extra cookies sitting on a plate, decorations that we no longer use, going out to eat? This is a great time to reach out and include someone who is struggling; share some cookies, take a decoration to someone who needs cheering up, invite someone out to lunch with you, ask a neighbor to come and enjoy our Sunday services or potluck.

Each time we reach out to someone with a helping hand, we are showing God's love. Jesus reached out, healed, touched and loved, and we can do the same. So, even though we are busy with our holiday plans, we need to take the time to make someone else's holidays a little more cheerful, a little more hopeful, and share God's love.

God Bless You and grant all a wonderful and a very Merry Christmas.

JANUARY PUZZLE

HIDDEN PICTURE

BY VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY

Find the following things: a baseball, a comb, a flashlight, a glass, an ice-cream cone, a jump rope, a lollipop, a paintbrush, a rolling pin, a saw, a slice of bread, a slice of pizza, a spool of thread, a teacup, a toothbrush, and a watch. Then color the picture.





RECIPE FOR JANUARY

Almond Joy Cookies

How can you go wrong with chocolate and coconut?

Ingredients

- 1 cup butter
- 1 1/2 cups white sugar
- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar
- 4 eggs
- 3 teaspoons vanilla
- 4 1/2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 5 cups chocolate chips
- 2 cups sweetened coconut
- 2 cups chopped almonds



Directions

Pre-heat oven to 375°F Lightly grease cookie sheets.

Combine dry ingredients, set aside.

In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugars together. Beat in the eggs, one at a time, stir in the vanilla. Stir in the dry ingredients until well mixed then stir in the chocolate chips, coconut and almonds. Drop by rounded tablespoonful onto the prepared cookie sheets.

Bake for 8 to 10 minutes. Cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.

THIS WE BELIEVE FOR JANUARY

**"TRUE WORSHIPERS WILL WORSHIP THE FATHER IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH, FOR THEY ARE THE KIND OF WORSHIPERS
THE FATHERS SEEKS"**

"John 4:23"

~MISSION STATEMENT~

**"We will be scripture-based to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and spiritually led to guide all people to be active doers of the Word"**

Approved by Session on November 16, 2007

CHURCH STAFF

**Pastor: Fred Taylor, Clerk of Session: Vicky Bair, Church Treasurer: Ken Hobart,
Secretary: Christi Partee, Financial Secretary: Elaine Miller**

DEACONS

Class of 2016

**Sandy Erickson
Pat Erlewine**

Class of 2017

**Ed Lloyd
Amy Johnson**

Class of 2018

**Pam Hobart
Vacancy**

ELDERS

Class of 2016

**Vicky Bair
Vacancy**

Class of 2017

**Meg Simons
Peni Lloyd**

Class of 2018

**Ken Hobart
Steve Broskovak**

**Presbyterian Church of Bull Shoals
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