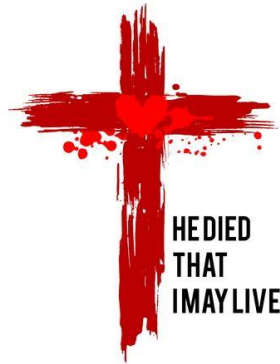


The Parish Light

The Parish of the Northern Lights Newsletter ~ April 2020



The Nail

The nail is used for many things, a useful securing tool;

A hammer is taken by the hand and drives it, that's the rule.

A nail is needed when you build, it's a necessary thing.

It was also used over two thousand years ago

To hang upon a tree, the King.

He took the pain and suffering for all mankind, you see.

Yet He took the torture just for you, and He took it just for me.

You cannot keep a good man down, through the years many have said.

He went down a man and rose a King to deliver the spiritually dead.

He is on the throne at God's right hand.

The First, the Last, The Great I Am.

No nail, no hammer can touch Him now--the mighty King on high.

What He built is forevermore, salvation for you and I.

So when you see a simple nail with its sharpened end, and need to build or repair,

Lift up your eyes, your heart, and mind

and thank Him with a prayer.

--Laurene H. Bell

Minister's message

I was out hunting with a friend in Baker Lake. It was wintertime and I was out on a snowmobile. As it can in the Arctic, the wind started to pick up at an alarming rate. As the wind started to pick up, the snow started to blow and soon the hills were difficult to see. I thought it best that we head back. I stopped the snowmobile to tell my partner only to realize he was nowhere in sight. To make matter worse by this time the storm had developed into a whiteout. I suddenly realized how foolish I was. We were only going for a few hours and I went out without tent, sleeping bag or extra gas. I was lost in the tundra, in a blizzard without proper equipment and I did not even know the direction home. For one of the few times in my life I was very much afraid. I decided to go in circles hoping to find a landmark that I would recognize.

For about an hour and a half I continue to circle, getting more nervous and edgy. I could tell my fuel was getting low. I stopped. And before I allow panic to overcome me I closed my eyes, took a deep breath feeling the icy air on my lungs. I began to pray. If you ask me what I said I will admit I do not remember. What I do remember is the sense of calmness that overcame and a sense that God was present. For a moment I sat there in the windy whiteness of the blizzard feeling the presence of God around me. Then I started out again.

I began circling. After about 15 minutes I came upon an old gravel road. I knew the road. There are very few roads around Baker Lake. The problem was I did not know which way to go. If I went the correct way it would lead me to the main road and to home. If I went the other way the road ended in literally the middle of nowhere. This time in a calm voice that surprised me I ask God to direct me in the way to go. One way looked the same as the other: White. White everywhere. So, I started out in one direction trusting that God was guiding. About 20 minutes later I met the main road and from there the way home was easy.

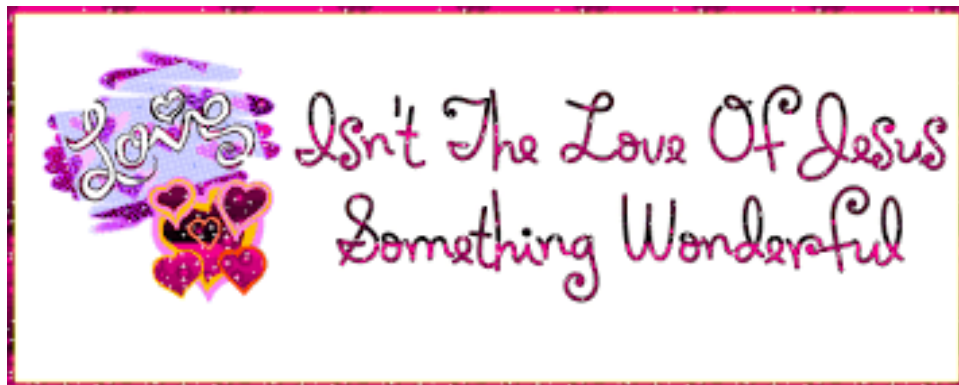
That incident took place about 26 or 27 years ago, I still remember is clearly. I was in a serious crisis and I had no idea what to do, or what would happen. Today we live in a crisis time. The corona virus is sweeping our land and the world. Many are dying, and we are becoming more nervous and anxious not knowing what will happen. Our way of life has been changed. The securities that surrounded us seem to be dropping away. It is in times like these we need to remember our Lord's words at the end of Matthew; "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." It is in the hard times of life (and this is one of those times) that we need to remember God is with us.

God the Holy Spirit guides us, God the Son walks beside us, sometimes carrying us through the rough times, and God the Father ever holding us in his hand, surrounding us with his love and mercy. We need to stop and take a moment allowing God to flood us lives, our souls with his presence. We need to let God have control and move forward as the Church, trusting in his leadership, His guidance, His mercy and His love. God never promised to take us out of hard times, but he promises to journey with us and if necessary carry us through the crisis of life, equipping us with all we need to do his will and in doing his will we find contentment.

So, what do we do? As the Church we need to rise up and move forward. We need to walk together (in this case at a safe social distance) sharing God's love and help to the world who so desperately needs him. Now is not the time to abandon the church, now is the time to be the Church and let the glory of God the Father shine out of us. Now is the time to let the love of Jesus shine forward, we are the body of Christ in the world. May we rise up and move together. There is a crisis in our midst, but we can make a difference. Shine Jesus Shine!!

THE GOD WHO KNOWS

I do not know the future,
But I know the God who knows.
And in His perfect wisdom,
Unknowing, I repose.
What good could come of knowing?
How little I could do
To meet the joys or sorrows
That I am coming to!
I do not know the future,
But I know the God who knows,
I make His love my study
And follow where He goes.
The path, its joys and sorrows,
I do not care to trace;
Content to know His goodness,
His mercy, and his grace.



From The Desk of GOD

Author Unknown

Effective Immediately:

Please be aware that there are changes you need to make in your life. These changes need to be completed in order that I may fulfill my promises to you to grant you peace, joy and happiness in this life. I apologize for any inconvenience, but after all that I am doing, this seems very little to ask of you. I know, I already gave you the 10 Commandments. Keep them. But follow these guidelines as well...

1. QUIT WORRYING

Life has dealt you a blow and all you do is sit and worry. Have you forgotten that I am here to take all your burdens and carry them for you? Or do you just enjoy fretting over every little thing that comes your way?

2. PUT IT ON THE LIST

Something needs done or taken care of. Put it on the list. No, not YOUR list. Put it on MY to-do-list. Let ME be the one to take care of the problem. I can't help you until you turn it over to me. And, although my to-do-list is long, I am, after all, God. I can take care of anything you put into my hands. In fact, if the truth were ever really known, I take care of a lot of things for you that you never even realize.

3. TRUST ME

Once you've given your burdens to me, quit trying to take them back. Trust in me. Have the faith that I will take care of all your needs, your problems and your trials. Problems with the kids? Put them on my list. Problem with finances? Put it on my list. Problems with your emotional roller coaster? For my sake, put it on my list. I want to help you. All you have to do is ask.

4. LEAVE IT ALONE

Don't wake up one morning and say, "Well, I'm feeling much stronger now, I think I can handle it from here." Why do you think you are feeling stronger now? It's simple. You gave me your burdens and I'm taking care of them. I also renew your strength and cover you in my peace. Don't you know that if I give you these problems back, you will be right back where you started? Leave them with me and forget about them. Just let me do my job.

5. TALK TO ME

I want you to forget a lot of things. Forget what was making you crazy. Forget the worry and the fretting because you know I'm in control. But there's one thing I pray you never forget. Please don't forget to talk to me - OFTEN! I love you. I want to hear your voice. I want you to include me in on the things going on in your life. I want to hear you talk about your friends and family. Prayer is simply you having a conversation with me. I want to be your dearest friend.

6. HAVE FAITH

I see a lot of things from up here that you can't see from where you are. Have faith in me that I know what I'm doing. Trust me, you wouldn't want the view from my eyes. I will continue to care for you, watch over you, and meet your needs. You only have to trust me. Although I have a much bigger task than you, it seems as if you have so much trouble just doing your simple part. How hard can trust be?

7. SHARE

You were taught to share when you were only two years old. When did you forget? That rule still applies. Share with those who are less fortunate than you. Share your joy with those who need encouragement. Share your laughter with those who haven't heard any in such a long time. Share your tears with those who have forgotten how to cry. Share your faith with those who have none.

8. BE PATIENT

I managed to fix it so in just one lifetime you could have so many diverse experiences. You grow from a child to an adult, have children, change jobs many times, learn many trades, travel to so many places, meet thousands of people, and experience so much. How can you be so impatient then when it takes me a little longer than you expect to handle something on my to-do-list? Trust in my timing, for my timing is perfect. Just because I created the entire universe in only six days, everyone thinks I should always rush, rush, rush.

9. BE KIND

Be kind to others, for I love them just as much as I love you. They may not dress like you, or talk like you, or live the same way you do, but I still love you all. Please try to get along, for my sake. I created each of you different in some way. It would be too boring if you were all identical. Please know I love each of your differences.

10. LOVE YOURSELF

As much as I love you, how can you not love yourself? You were created by me for one reason only - to be loved, and to love in return. I am a God of Love. Love me. Love your neighbors. But also love yourself. It makes my heart ache when I see you so angry with yourself when things go wrong. You are very precious to me. Don't ever forget that!

With all my heart, I love you,

GOD

I need the body of Christ

like I need my coffee in the morning,

like my medications, like my daily bread,

like water.

A hopeful passage from scripture:

I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love

— not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future,

and not powers above or powers below.

Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in

Christ Jesus our Lord!

Romans 8:38-39 (CEV)

What's Happening

In these days, where social interaction is discouraged, we are scrambling to find a way to reach our church families.

Please believe we are doing the best we can with what we have.

If you wish to talk about this or any other issues, Bishop Larry is encouraging you to call him at 780-213-4099.

We have found that ZOOM is working for now. Below are the services presently using the application ZOOM on the internet.

- Evening Prayer Service: On Zoom (seek advice from Bishop Larry for hookup)
7:00 pm every Sunday night.

Zoom ID# 574373255....Password 065249

Have your Book of Alternative Services on hand

- Small group Bible study – studying Max Lucado's "He Chose the Nails"
7:00 Tuesday night on Zoom

ID# 4735734282Password smallgroup

Have your bible on hand.

If you wish to join us, contact Jan at 780-213-5544. I will copy pages and send them to you.

- Watch Diocese of Athabasca for information on Sunday services.

