

**Covenant Church Newsletter**  
**408 N Sacaton St, Suite K**  
**Casa Grande, AZ 85122-4437**  
**520-876-2888**

[www.covenantprescg.org](http://www.covenantprescg.org)      [email: office @covenantprescg.org](mailto:office@covenantprescg.org)

A Christ centered covenant community

Loving God,  
Loving People,  
Making Disciples

**July 2020**

**Pastor's Ponderings**

Our nation seems to be in chaos. The COVID-19 issue has been disorienting enough, but then add the rash brutality of a police officer who should have been long removed from duty, the ensuing protests that things should be different (yes, they should) and the riots (to what end?), and normal, everyday people are suddenly angry and fearful in ways we've never known.

It is unsettling, as extreme voices on either end of these issues, occupy the news and social media. Most everyone I talk to agrees that the actions of one man do not define all other men like him. Most everyone I talk to also agrees that what we have here, is not a race problem, it is not a social injustice problem, it is not a political problem, it is not a violence problem, although it is certainly all of those things. No, what we have here is a SIN problem. And for that problem, there is only one cure, the message of Jesus Christ. You and I are in possession of this cure, and you and I have been sent out to deliver this cure to a hurting world.

Our friend Richard Taylor recently loaned me a copy of *Craveable*, by Artie Davis. At one point, Davis talks about how we should be like Jesus in loving "out of bounds" people. Those are people who aren't on the field, but are instead "out of bounds." We therefore shouldn't expect them to play by our rules. It isn't until we come into a relationship with Jesus that we are put on the field and then there are different expectations. The out of bounds people are the ones Jesus went to, and he was often criticized for being their friend, because Jesus came to see and to save the lost, the out of bounds people.

Davis notes that a lot of Christians are spending time with out of bounds people, but we aren't telling them about Jesus. Other Christians are not spending time with anyone out of bounds. These Christians, Davis notes, have been saved for 106, and everything they do is inside the church. "They haven't been a friend to a sinner since they were in preschool," he says...ouch!

He then tells how his wife, Georgie, was in her early twenties when God spoke to her about becoming friends with a lady named Kathy. Up until then Georgie had only been hanging around people who were in bounds, so this was her first out of bounds friend.

"After a year or so Kathy had a crisis in her life," says Davis, "and she turned to Georgie for an answer. Kathy said, 'You have a peace, a power, something that is craveable.' This led to the opportunity for Georgie to lead Kathy into a relationship with her Creator!" (p. 112-113)

So, here's the question: do you have any out of bounds friends, people who need the cure of Christ? If not, what might you need to do about that? And if so, are you showing them a craveable life in Christ, and staying open to the Spirit's leading to share Jesus with them? Davis asks also if we are praying for that. "Sometimes

we pray for people to get saved,” he says, “but we aren’t willing to go where they are and be with them. People respond to people who genuinely care about them.”

Let’s be craveable!

In Christ,

Brant

### **Men’s Bible Study**

The Men of the church meet each Thursday at 11:00am, all men are welcome, and you can bring a sack lunch if you like. Wearing a mask is optional. If you would like to be part of the Bible study, please call Brant for more information (520-876- 2888 or 480-458-7628).

### **Neighborhood Help Team**

The Neighborhood Help Team is continuing a service for those who could use a little bit of help. We would like to help you in replacing A/C filters or with some landscape trimming on the 4th Saturday of each month. Contact Nelson Moore in person or call him @ 520-483-0461.

### **July Calendar**

- 5 Communion
- 8 Prayer Night, Wednesday, 6:30pm
- 9 Worship Team, Thursday, 1:00pm
- 16 Session, Thursday, 6:00pm
- 22 Prayer Night, Wednesday, 6:30pm

### **July Birthdays**

- 4 Crystalle Kirkbride
- 17 Rev. Brant Baker
- 18 Norm Sandblast
- 18 Ellen Greenwood
- 20 Pauline Johnson
- 20 Suzette LeMieux
- 30 Gary Schmadeke

### **July Anniversaries**

- 29 Henry & Ruth McLaughlin
- 31 Phil & Gladys Perry

