

# NEW COVENANT PRESS

NEW COVENANT CHURCH “NEWSLETTER” Georgenne Snook, Editor Issue #41 July 2021

## WE’VE HIT TWO HUNDRED!

Two hundred? Yep! Two hundred people are clicking on the church’s website! That’s pretty good for a church that has thirty or less attendees on an average Sunday. Obviously, they don’t all attend our church; perhaps there are many who do not attend any church, so we are their church! For those with computers, we can be found at [www.newcovenantbaptistchurch.org](http://www.newcovenantbaptistchurch.org). Once there, you’ll find listed many topics pertaining to the church to choose from. Things like Bible readings, contact information, weekly schedule of events, a place to submit prayer requests, the monthly “Newsletter”, a way to give by computer (too bad, John, you don’t collect as much in your bag at the end of the service each week), AND a year’s worth of weekly sermon videos by Pastor Randy. Just click on the one you want to hear. And there are a number of other topics listed also, too many to list here. But one popular topic that is not listed is music. You have to be here in person to hear and sing the great music. Remember also that nothing beats gathering together in the church where you can greet your friends each Sunday. Just imagine what it would be like to see two hundred people here at once! (Our church can hold even more than that.) Maybe things will change now that Covid restrictions have been eased. Let’s pray to that end. God can do it. And to you who are reading this on line, you are invited to come visit us!

## WONDERFUL SOURCE OF STRENGTH

A very common experience for many of us who are aging is a concern over our failing strength. First, we wonder why it takes longer to do the same things we’ve always done before. And then we wonder why we have to stop and rest so often. And we find that we are less steady on our feet than we used to be. We can do a lot to preserve some of our strength by exercise, but at best, we gradually decline: It’s just not the same as it used to be. Sometimes it’s a challenge to even stay well. And our supply of prescriptions has grown over what it once was.

There is a story about a little boy who had been tossed out of a capsizing boat into the water. He was found clinging to a rock. His rescuers asked him if he had been afraid, and he said “No, I wasn’t afraid, because the rock didn’t move.” The real source of our strength is clinging to the Rock—to Christ, who is the Rock of our salvation. Even if we are physically not as strong as we used to be, we have an abundant supply of spiritual strength in Him. “...be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus,” (I Timothy 2:10), and “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” (Philippians 4:13). What better source of strength could there be? We can depend on the Lord to give us the experiences that are in His will, and the necessary strength to get through each day that He graciously allows us to live here on this earth.

## ANSWERS TO PRAYER

It’s always great to hear of God’s wonderful answers to prayer. Ravi Zacharias told this story on one of his Just Thinking programs to illustrate how even the prayer of an unbeliever who did not even mean it to be a prayer (or did he?) can be answered. There was an atheist who was getting ready to go out one day, and while he was tying his shoelaces, he was thinking about the God he didn’t believe in. He said, “If you are real, you’ll have to convince me.” Just then, there was a knock on the his door. It was a young Christian student. Evidently, he was somewhat confused; he asked the atheist, “Why am I here?” “I know why you’re here,” replied the atheist, “Come on in.” The student came into the man’s home, and Christ came into his heart

## WE WILL OBEY

Oh? Really? Are we going to obey what the Lord says to do? In Jeremiah 42:6 the Israelites made a promise to God: “Whether it be good or whether it be evil (---KJV} (Whether we like it or not ---Living Bible) we will obey the voice of the Lord our God—that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the Lord our God. (if we obey Him, everything will turn out well for us---Living Bible), The remnant of the Israelites were in the land of Judah and wanted to go to Egypt to live. (v. 41:17.) They asked Jeremiah to ask the Lord for them what He wanted them to do, and promised to do it. Ha! Of course, they did not keep that promise. They had been deceitful when they promised to do His will, (v.20) For ye dissembled in your hearts. If we want God’s blessing, we must keep our promises to Him.

## TOO MUCH LIKE THE ISRAELITES

Jeremiah 14:10 “Thus saith the Lord unto this people, ‘Thus have they loved to wander, they have not refrained their feet, therefore the Lord doth not accept them; He will now remember their iniquity, and visit their sins.’ (NIV... punish your sins.) 11 “Then said the Lord unto me, ‘Pray not for this people for their good.’ 12 “When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offerings and an oblation, I will not accept them, but I will consume them by the sword and by the famine and by the pestilence.” Ezekiel 9:10. “So I will not spare them nor have any pity on them, and I will fully repay them for all that they have done.” Ezekiel 11:12 says “Ye shall know that I am the Lord, for ye have not walked in my statutes, neither executed my judgments...” (NIV “for you have not followed my decrees or kept my laws.”)

Folks in this day are not so very different from those in Jeremiah’s time. All over the world, people have gotten away from God, and are experiencing His wrath, even as did those Israelites who had gotten away from Him. Even when they have known Him in the past. How can He then give them His blessing? How can we pray for them when they refuse to do His will? Our prayer should be that they will accept Jesus as their Savior, for then He can bless them. A quote from Andrew Murray in his book, GROWING IN PRAYER, in a chapter entitled Pray for the World, says “Fill me with the desire and the power to pray for this world.” Our prayers for the salvation of sinners are desperately needed! There is no hope for them until they are saved and stop their sinful disobedience.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Now that the Covid restrictions have been relaxed, and we can meet in church again, we can also have Sunday School again. The adult class meets at 9:15, and is taught by Marlin Balsiger. We start out by taking prayer requests and giving opportunity to each class member to tell anything that happened during the week that might be of interest to the class. We get to know each other that way. The class is small---about eleven members. And we would love to see it grow. We learn a lot from Marlin! COME JOIN US! You’ll be glad you did!

## SHORT THOUGHTS

Be careful of your thoughts---they may become words at any time! Our Daily Bread

May my life also compel others to desire Your abiding presence. Andrew Murray

Whatsoever things are true---honest---just---pure---of good report---etc. Turn that upside down and don’t think of things that are untrue---dishonest---unjust---impure---etc. David Jeremiah on Turning Point

