

NEW COVENANT PRESS

New Covenant Church "Newsletter" Georgette Snook, Editor Issue # 2 May 2018

THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

We live in the last times for sure. The Church has lasted for two thousand years now, having gone through many stages of development during the time since its inception in the times of Jesus and His disciples. And on many occasions the level of spirituality of some of its members was not always what Jesus would have been pleased with. God was gracious in that He always gave us Saints who carried forward in spite of adverse circumstances. But now things are more difficult for believers than they were a few years ago. While from the beginning there was persecution, it is more widespread than ever, taking the form of everything from curtailing the free expression of our Faith to condemning Christians to prison and death.

Many of the world's most famously active Christians are our contemporaries, and their leadership has been used by the Holy Spirit to bring multitudes to Jesus from one end of the earth to the other. But this current crop of Christians is aging, and even as we leave one by one, the Church is passing into the hands of the next generation. Are we training them to take over and carry on from here in this sinful world with all its problems and temptations?

The Christians of the past have left a godly legacy and many wonderful examples for our young people to follow, and there are those who make it their life's ministry to work with them and teach them how to lead their fellows in the Christian life. They can see what it is like to honor Christ and live for Him. But is the Holy Spirit's job to impress on them what it means to belong to Him. And it is our job to PRAY! Let us pray while we still have the chance to do so.

Let us pray for those who follow us that they will honor Christ and that the work of the Holy Spirit will be manifest in their lives as they become strong in the leadership of the Church. Let us ask the Lord to work in their hearts, to take possession of them, to fill them with love for God and man, to remove all unbelief and selfishness, and to let the Spirit have His way with them that they might truly become strong in the Faith to do God's will as He would have them to. Let us PRAY! They are the future of the Church.

CHURCH CHANGES

In case you have not been to church for several weeks, the new floor tiles will be a happy surprise to you when you come in the doors. They have been put down recently with the help of a wonderful group of young people who came all the way down from Canada to help us with the daunting task of ripping up the old carpet in the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall so that the new carpet tiles could be put in place. It was great too to see so many new faces filling up the back seats in the auditorium on the Sunday they came, and to hear what some of them had to say.

And----also, the chairs in the auditorium have been replaced by gray ones so match the new carpeting. They are now arranged in two blocks rather than three. So wherever we use to sit has been change for some of us. And it was a great surprise on Easter Sunday when all of a sudden the screen at the front of the auditorium suddenly began to rise towards the ceiling and a huge, tall cross was revealed. So appropriate for Easter!

LAUGH A LITTLE

A MOSQUITO BITE: Next time a mosquito bites you, just think about this: "I want to be so full of Christ that if a mosquito bites me, it flies away singing There is Power in the Blood." contributed by a friend

Have you seen the bumper sticker, "Apathy is the number one problem in America, but who cares?" heard on the radio from Woodrow Kroll

The best kind of laughter is laughing at yourself. You never run out of material. Focus on the Family

A little boy came home eating a candy bar. His mother asked him where he got it. "I bought it at the store with the money you gave me," he replied. "But that dollar was for the Sunday School," his mother protested. "I know, Mom," he answered, "but the Pastor met me at the door and got me in for free!" unknown

OLYMPIC ADVENTURE

What an experience it was to see the Olympics at the end of February. My wife along with our oldest son traveled to Seoul looking forward to spending time together as well as seeing two of the Olympic events. Our son is an avid snowboard fan and wanted to take in the Big Air Snowboard final. We also wanted to see an Ice Hockey game. Never having been to the Olympics before, we knew we would be in for an adventure. Upon our arrival in Seoul we spent the first day exploring the city. Seoul is a city of 10.2 million people. It also hosts the largest church in the world. We would have loved to be able to attend one of the services, but had to travel back on the day their services were held.

While out and about in the city we were able to eat some of the local cuisine and for the most part were greatly impressed with the food. Finally was able to master the art of using chopsticks. We found the people to be quite hospitable and many were gracious enough to help us find our way to certain destinations in spite of the language barrier.

On the second day, we decided to travel out to one of the four Olympic venues to do some exploring. The venues were an hour and a half by bullet train out of Seoul. We had a great day exploring the venue, picking up our tickets for the next days events and then making our way back into Seoul that evening. While we enjoyed the food in Seoul, the street vendors were different story. One of most interesting food choices we observed but did not eat was boiled cockroach larvae. To say the least, the smell was not extremely appetizing.

Upon our return to Seoul, we decided that we would purchase our train tickets for the next day, only to our surprise all the tickets were sold out for the next day. So the adventure begins. While standing at the ticket counter we overheard another American who was in the same position as we were. Within a few minutes there was another couple from Japan in the same situation. After introducing ourselves we all decided to charter a private coach to take us to the site the next morning, but it meant a 4am departure to get us there in time for the event. No biggie. Had a great day seeing both events, exploring all the remaining Olympic venue sites and then heading back into Seoul. However there were no trains available until 1:30am the next morning and they were standing room only. Needless to say we bought the tickets and caught the train. Upon our arrival back in Seoul we were told that the underground trains (subway system) ran 24 hours. To our surprise, they did not. Needing to get back to our hotel, we flagged down a taxi. The driver spoke no English and we spoke no Korean. Our taxi drive was quite the adventure as he raced down the freeways at a very high rate of speed taking us way out of the way of our destination. Finally recognizing where we were at in relationship to our hotel, we convinced him to exit and drop us off and we would walk the rest of the way. We finally arrived back at our hotel at about 4:30 am only having to be up to go catch our flight back home in a few short hours.

Needless to say, we had a great time and would do it all over again. God has blessed us in so many ways through the years and this was just another one of His blessings. Can't wait to see what the next adventure is going to be. Until next time, Randy

HELL ON EARTH--ANOTHER KIND OF TRIP

The Fields had a great trip! Now here's one that we don't want to take. What constitutes hell, anyhow? How bad is it? In Revelation, there is a verse that speaks of it as a bottomless pit from which smoke arises. (9:2) (and where there is smoke, there is fire!)....and Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone; the beast and the false prophet and the devil.; and they will be tormented night and day for ever and forever. And in 21:8, it is called the second death. A place of horrible suffering. We don't want to go there. Read Revelation 20.

So, is there a hell on earth? Many awful things, but nothing like Revelation describes. But here we suffer what seems like a tiny taste of it sometimes. There's guilt, shame, sorrow and grief, and loss and pain, fear, dread, and even sleepless nights when we can't turn off our minds, to name a few. We hate these problems when we have them here on earth. They can drive us into such depression that we want to die. And some do commit suicide, only to find that hell is much worse than anything they have suffered during their lifetime, if they don't know Jesus as their Savior. Is it possible that our our kind and loving heavenly Father allows suffering so that we will be reminded of why we don't want to go to hell? And that we go through these things now so that we can thank Him that we don't have to experience them for eternity, but will go to heaven? He has his reasons, and just wants us to trust Him. The time will come for us who are Christians when we'll go to heaven instead. The trip above all trips!