



BLUE RIDGE CHRISTIAN NEWS



Berry Chapel Baptist Church

Mother's Day

By Steve Williams
Mitchell County

May is a very special month, it holds a very special day in it. It is called Mother's Day. There is just something very special about mothers. If you don't think so just remember 100% of every person on the earth has a mother. I thank the Lord from the bottom of my heart that I had a Godly mom. Folks let me encourage you while you have a mom to be sure to let her know what she means to you. As I think back in my life, I failed to do this the way I should have, but as we all know hindsight is 20/20

The thing I remember the most about my mom is her voice and the words that she shared with me in my life. I remember being in the hospital several times as a small child with Pneumonia and my mom was there standing beside my bed holding my hand and praying for me while I laid under an oxygen tent. I remember how her voice would tremble as she prayed to God for me to get better. I also remember how she would assure me that everything was going to be OK. I remember hearing her telling me how much she loved me all through my life, even though some of the years in my life I was not too lovable. I can remember her voice telling me when I was not living right, that God saw what I was doing, and that it hurt Him. I also remember coming home late at night and trying to sneak by her door without her hearing me and I would hear her praying and thanking God for bringing me home safely. Boy, she knew how to use her voice to talk to God and to get my attention as I walked by her room. I will always remember her words of challenge, that she spoke to me, and these are the same words that she wrote in my Bible that she gave me. She said Steve, "Sin will keep you from this book and this book will keep you from sin." She also wrote Sin will take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay." Those words still echo in my ears and heart today.

The two things I miss the most about my mother's voice: one is asking her to pray for me and listen to how she would pray to God. It was just like she and God were sitting right across from each other while she lifted me up in prayer.



Even though my mother developed Alzheimer's and could not always remember who I was and all that was going on, I could set by her recliner and ask her to pray for me. It was unreal to hear how she prayed to God, still you would never know she had this horrible disease. The second thing I miss about her voice is hearing her sharing her thankfulness to God how good He was to her and how God had helped our family through so many tough times. One day I took my mom and dad to a place on top of Blue Rock Mt. called Quiet Reflection before she developed Alzheimer's. It was during the fall of the year. As I took her to the chapel and opened the door, and as she looked through the big pane glass windows, she started crying, lifting up her hands and just praising God for the beauty of what she was seeing, and how great the God she served was. What she was seeing overwhelmed her and it really got to me. It just showed me just how much my mom loves the Lord that day and what He truly meant to her. Love is the greatest thing in the world, God's Word tells us that time and time again.

There is just something about a mother's voice, it is the greatest. Her voice can soothe her crying child, it encourages the broken heart of her children and that sweet voice will give her children advice that will stick with them as long as they live. I can just hear the voice of my mom, talking about what's going on in the world today. She would say "Now Steve, God is in control. He has been taking care of us and provided for us all our lives, so just use your voice and Praise Him for who He is, what He has done, and what He is going to accomplish through all of this uncertainty that is taking place today. But most of all thank Him for His great Love and Salvation that He has given you." I believe the greatest attention getter in the world, other than the still small voice of God is, the voice of a mother who loves her family. Oh, how I can't wait to hear the voice of my mom again.

Words of Wisdom

- Moms are the people who know us the best and love us the most. N/A
- Silence is golden unless you have kids, then silence is suspicious. N/A
- A mother is your best critic and yet your strongest supporter. N/A
- Only God Himself fully appreciates the influence of a Christian mother in the molding of character in her children. Billy Graham
- I don't believe there are devils enough in hell to pull a boy or girl out of the arms of a godly mother. Billy Sunday

Something to think about:

- A wise woman told her husband who was complaining about how things looked around the house. She said, we can't all look good at the same time, It's either me, the kids or the house.

Steve Williams is the Pastor of Berry Chapel Baptist Church in Spruce Pine.

The Dangers of Talking to Yourself

By Kurt Bomar
Avery County

With our confinement from the virus, I imagine many of us are reduced to talking to ourselves.

Did you know it can be dangerous to talk to yourself? I am not talking about other people seeing you carrying on your private conversations and thinking you're losing it. This reminds me of a comedian's suggestion that all the vagrant mumblers in NYC should be paired up and place on park benches, just to make the rest of us feel comfortable thinking they are having intelligent conversations.

Rather I am talking about the dangers of when we seek our own advice instead of getting our advice from the Lord.

King David made just such a mistake and it cost him. As a young man, he was afraid of King Saul who wanted to kill him out of jealousy. 1 Sam. 27:1 tells us *"and David said in his heart (talking to himself), I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul"*.

As a result of that conversation with himself David, he got mixed up and came to the wrong conclusions. He fell into depression and ended up living in enemy territory for almost a year and a half.

I have done the same thing. When someone slights me, I can get quietly offended and then I start talking to myself. I can build an airtight case against that person in my mind. It goes something like this: Now Kurt, what do you think about that? I think what they said or did was unfair and unkind. I do too! What should I do?

I think I should give them a piece of my mind the next time I see them. In the meantime, I'm going to let everybody know what I think about them. I agree that's what I'll do.

Jeremiah was right, *"the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked."* (Jer. 17:9)

What happens next? I spend an extended time in a spiritual wilderness like David did, completely outside of the will of God. I also miss the opportunity of learning what God wanted me to learn from that person.

So, what should we do? Follow the advice of Paul in Philippians. 4 *"Be anxious for nothing. But in everything with prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known (not to yourself, but rather) to God. And the peace of God will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."*

When you get upset, do not fall into the trap of talking to yourself. Take it to your Father who loves you and understands. He will work you through it. Selah (think about it)

Kurt Bomar is pastor of Walnut Grove Church.



By Nancy Malik
Avery County

What a delight May can be, even with snow. The beauty of the Blue Ridge in spring awakens our senses! And this worldwide virus has caused families, businesses, and churches to go to the world wide web to meet each other in praise and encouragement. The explosion of outreach to a broken world has brought much growth in our faith as we see the mighty hand of God in a time of diversity. My radio show, Adventures in Creation, has Prayer as the theme for May! This virus has brought many of us who are over-busy, low in prayer, Christians, to our knees!

My heart goes out to those in deep fear, with no family or friends that have an answer for the hope and answer to a heart empty except for fear. The Creator God stepped out of heaven to be born as a baby, lived 33 years and in His last three turned the world upside down when His teachings of The Word, Jesus, Himself, came alive. His body took on all sin, mine, yours, all that was ever committed, on a wicked cross, a hideous death, yet rising again as The Victor over sin! Five hundred people witnessed His ascension and were willing to die for His truth and have continued to throughout history! Millions have died due to "not denying" His death and resurrection for all to live who answer His call!

God placed on my heart as I write this that someone is reading this and knows their empty heart needs filling with the truth, not of fear, but of a sound mind as you read this. The Billy Graham Association is available 24/7 to answer questions and offer the ultimate healing for your heart at 1-888-388-2683. Please call no matter what time of day. He is calling you to Him and a new life! God is calling us to Him for an unbelievable eternity. Not hell, but life everlasting with Him! God bless you, Dear Ones! He loves us so!

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world (us) that He gave His one and only Son (Jesus) that whoever believes in Him, WILL NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVER-LASTING LIFE!"* Amen.

Nancy Malik has lived 3 years in Avery County. She is a member of Heaton Christian Church. She has taught creations science to children for many years. She has a radio program M – F, 8:10 am and 12:50 pm on Glory 1130 am radio.



Compassionate Care
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
Palliative • Hospice • Counseling

Wonderful Care When You Need It Most



856 Georges Fork Road, Burnsville, NC 28714
828-682-9675
Info@compassionatecarewnc.org

Contents

In Every Issue

Clint’s Chronicles on the Funny Farm - p. 15

Life Lessons - p. 9

Your Government - pp. 32-33

BLUE RIDGE CHRISTIAN NEWS

Publisher/Co-editor – Brian Barrier
828-413-0506
brianb@brcnews.com
Office Manager/Co-editor – Cathy Pritchard
828-765-6800
cathyp@brcnews.com
Sales:
Brian Barrier
828-413-0506
brianb@brcnews.com
Church Directory:
Brian Barrier
828-765-6800
brianb@brcnews.com

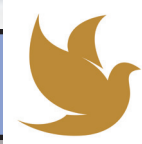
Distribution:
Deborah Slagle
Doug Braswell
Amanda Silver
Sherri Hutchins
Sid Houk
Graphic Design / Layout
Lynn Yaccarino
lynny@brcnews.com
Blue Ridge Christian News
261 Oak Ave.
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Office – 828-765-6800
Fax – 828-766-9157

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace: that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation: that saith unto Zion. Thy God reigneth!”

Isaiah 52:7 KJV



Visit Us Online At: www.brcnews.com



Thank You For Supporting Our Advertisers!

Serving: Avery - Burke - Madison - McDowell - Mitchell - Yancey Counties

ADVERTISER CLASSIFICATIONS

APPLIANCES Jonathan's Used Appliances (7)	First Baptist Spruce Pine (4) Grassy Creek Baptist (4) Great Hope 7th day Adventist (4) Morganton Seventh day Adventist (4) Newland Christian Church (4) Pine Branch Baptist (4) Pleasant Hill Baptist Church (4) Plumtree Presbyterian (4) Spruce Pine United Methodist (4) The Rock Church (4) The Bridge (4) West Burnsville Baptist (4)	FARM SUPPLIES Griffith's General Store (17)	Hospice of Rutherfordton (35) Compassionate Care of Western North Carolina (2)	PRESCRIPTION The Prescripton Pad (8)
ARCHITECTURE Barry Wilson Architecture (20)		FINANCIAL PLANNING Retirement Resource Management (25)	HOUSING Clayton (26)	RADIO Glory Radio (33)
AUTOMOBILES - Dealers Jim Armstrong (24) John Greene Chrysler (23) Marion Chrysler Dodge (39) Spruce Pine Chevrolet (13)		FLOORING/CABINETS Carolina Flooring/Cabinets (8)	INSURANCE Fortner Insurance (19) McDowell Farm Bureau (22) Miller Insurance Group (11) Mitchell Co. Farm Bureau (9) Premier Insurance (27) Thrive Insurance (34)	REALTORS Whitson Realty (28)
AUTOMOBILES - Repair John's Precision Auto Body (22)	CHIROPRACTIC Cruz Chiropractic (39)	FOSTER CARE Seven Homes for Kids (31)	MULCH McClure Construction (21)	REHABILITATION/NURSING Brian Center (6)
AUTOMOBILES - Tires Buff Tire & Service (8) McCabe Tire & Service (35) Spruce Pine Tire (12)	CPA Jamie Miller (7)	FURNITURE Buck Stove (37) Peoples Furniture (20)	NURSERY Lakeview Nursery (30)	RESTAURANTS Bantam Chef (22) Bubba’s Good Eats (14) DT's (15) Western Sizzlin (25)
AUTOMOBILES - Supply B & J Auto Supply (22)	DENTIST Scott Murphy (20)	FUNERAL SERVICE Morganton Seventh day Adventist (4) Sossoman's Funeral Home (11)	ORTHODONTICS Small & Martin Orthodontics (29)	RETAIL Grassy Creek Clothing (37)
BUILDING SUPPLIES Summit Building Supplies (12)	DSS Mitchell DSS (33)	HEALTH CARE Bakersville Clinic (10) Carolina Home Care (25) Pruitt Health Care (40)	PAWN Mountaineer Pawn Shop (5)	STORAGE DR Storage (36)
CHURCHES Altapass Baptist (4) Bear Creek Baptist (4) Berry Chapel Baptist (4) Burkemont Baptist (4) Faith Fellowship (4)	EVENTS Billy Graham/The Cove (18) Catawba River Baptist Assoc. (15) Freedom Life (28) Mountain Time on Main (16) Yancey Baptist Assoc. (15) Yancey Senior Center (34)	HOME BUYERS Sillman Home Buyers (33)	PLUMBING/HEATING Burleson Plumbing Heating (17) Benjamin Franklin Plumbing (29)	TRANSPORTATION Mitchell Transit (16) Yancey Transit (29)
		HOSPICE Hospice and Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge, Inc (26)	TREE SERVICE Ray's Tree Service (24)	

Church Directory



Bear Creek Baptist Church

327 Bear Creek Road
Bakersville, NC 28705
www.bearcreekbaptist.com

Reverend Bruce Cannon

Sunday School 9:45 AM
Worship Service 10:45 AM
Discipleship 6:00 PM
Evening Worship 6:45 PM
Wednesday Worship 7:30 PM

"For God so loved the world, he gave his only Son..."

The Bridge Church of WNC

207 Pinebridge Avenue
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
www.bridgewnc.org

Pastors - Tom & Tammy Anglin

Sunday Service 10:30AM
Wednesday Service 7:00PM
Church Office M-F
9:00AM-3:00PM

"Home of Tri County Christian School"

Our passion is to help connect the Body of Christ in this area in order to see the Fire of God transform our community, state, nation and world! (See John 17:21)

Berry Chapel Baptist Church

280 Chapel St.
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
828-765-6590
www.berrychapelbaptist.com

Pastor - Steve Williams

Sunday School 9:45 AM
Worship Service 11:00 AM
Sunday Evening Care Meal/
Ministry - 5:30 PM
Wednesday Evening
Service 7:00 PM

Where Everybody is Somebody
And Jesus Christ is Lord!

The Rock Church

4806 US 64
Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: 828-334-3193
www.trcmorganton.com

Pastor - Billy Chapman

Sunday Morning – 10 AM
Sunday Night – 6 PM
Tuesday Night – 7 PM

Come Join Us
Tent Revival 2020

Grassy Creek Baptist Church

793 Old NC 226 Hwy
Spruce Pine, NC
828-765-4620
www.grassycreekbc.org

Sunday School 10:00am
Morning Worship 11:00am
Sunday evening 6:30pm
Wednesday:
J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) 6:30pm
Mid-week worship 7:00pm
*"That Mitchell County
may know Christ"*

Morganton Seventh-day Adventist Church

2187 Jamestown Road
Morganton, NC
828-584-8212

Pastor Steve Beitz

Sabbath (Saturday)
Bible Study - 9:30 am
Sabbath Worship - 11:00 am
Vegetarian Buffet after church
Wednesday
Praise, Prayer & Proclaim -
7:00 pm
www.morgantonsda.org

Altapass Baptist Church

3631 Altapass Hwy
Spruce Pine, NC
828-765-0660
altapassbaptistchurch@ccvn.com
www.altapassbaptistchurch.org

Dr. Marcus R. Benfield

Sunday School - 10:00am
Worship - 11:00am
Sunday Evening - 7:00pm
Sunday Youth Program - 7:00pm
1st & 3rd Sunday
(Conductors for Christ ages 5-11)
2nd & 4th Sunday
(Teen Discovery ages 12-18)
Wednesday - 7:00pm

*"A Christ-Centered,
Bible Believing Church"*

Plumtree Presbyterian Church

4527 Hwy 19E
Plumtree, NC 28664
828-765-6919
www.plumtreechurch.com

Pastor Ryan Bridgeo
pastor@plumtreechurch.com

Sunday School 9:45 am
Worship Service 11:00 am
Life Groups Tuesday-Thursday evenings, 7:00 pm
Fusion Youth Wednesday's, 6:30 pm
Healing Services 2nd Sunday of each month, 6:30 pm

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

2396 Enola Road
Morganton, NC 28655
(828) 437-4082
www.pleasanthillbc.church

**Senior Pastor
Dr. Jack Hodges**

Sunday School: 9:30 am
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am
Sunday Evening: 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening 6:30 pm

"Love All, Reach All, Teach All, Send All"

West Burnsville Baptist Church

222 West Burnsville Church Rd.
Burnsville, NC 28714
(828)-682-3990

Pastor: Terry Long

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Morning Service: 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service: 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m.

Church vision: Glorifying God through knowing, growing, going, to build the church and impact the world.

Burkemont Baptist Church

4668 Burkemont Rd.
Morganton, NC 28655
828-437-2357

For more information,
please visit
www.burkemontbaptist.org

Dr. Luke A. Lane

8:30am - Early Worship
9:45am - Sunday School
11:00am - Worship
6:00pm - Evening Worship

Marion Seventh-day Adventist Church

188 Ward Dr.
Marion, NC 28752
(828) 668-4018

Pastor Tim Sheridan

Sabbath (Saturday)
Bible Study - 9:15 am
Sabbath Worship – 10:50 am
Reaching the World with the Everlasting
Gospel of Jesus Christ!
www.marionnc.adventistchurch.org

First Baptist Church of Spruce Pine

125 Tappan Street
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
828-765-9411
www.sprucepinefbc.com
www.spfbc.blogspot.com

**Dr. Rocky Branch
Senior Pastor**

Sunday School - 9:45 am
Sunday Worship - 8:30 and 11:00 am
Sunday Evening - 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening - 6:30 pm

*Knowing God, Seeing God, Serving
God, Submitting to God!*

Great Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church

2907d US Hwy 70 E
Morganton, NC
828-475-2040

Pastor Barry MaHorney

Sabbath (Saturday)
Bible Study-10:00am
Sabbath Worship - 11:30am
Vegetarian Buffet after church
Wednesday - Praise, Prayer &
Proclaim - 7:00pm
www.greathopesda.com

Pine Branch Baptist Church

48 Church Road
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Phone: (828) 765-9101
www.pinebranchbaptist.net

Reverend Bobby Joe Greene

Sunday School • 9:45-10:40am
Worship Service • 10:45am
Sunday Evening • 6:30pm

A Bible-believing Fellowship
Loving God and Loving People

Spruce Pine United Methodist Church

11090 Hwy. 226 South
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
www.sprucepineumc.org
spumc3@bellsouth.net
828-765-7446

Pastor Rick Schilling

Sunday School - 10:00am
Sunday Worship - 11:00am
Choir Wednesday - 7:00pm

The mission of Spruce Pine United Methodist Church is to be a beacon on a hill spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ through: Worship, Fellowship, Education, and Nurturing Service

Newland Christian Church

2800 Millers Gap Highway
Newland, NC 28657
Phone (828) 260-1404
www.newlandchristianchurch.com

Pastor - Phillip Greene

Sunday School: 9:45 am
Sunday Worship: 11 am
Sunday Evening Bible Study: 6 pm
Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting: 7 pm

"A Local Congregation of Christ's Church"

*Call us at 828-765-6800 to enroll in
this important outreach effort.*

**You can let tourists, visitors and
even neighbors know where your
church is and when you meet
by listing in the BRCN Church
Directory. This visible and effective
advertising is specially priced at
\$300.00 per year for our churches -
approximately \$5.75 a week!**

This Too Shall Pass

By Tim Tron
Burke County



Walking along the dirt road, the thud of the man’s walking stick kept time with the beat of his heart. Alongside him, beyond the forest ferns and blooming dogwoods, the river ran clear. Here and there, the rush of white-water pulsating through rocks and ledges as it flowed forever onward echoed the sound of the time. These mountains were the home of Fetch’s family for as long as he could remember. They were the clan of Gragg, a remnant of those ancient forefathers known in their mother country as the Clan of MacGregor. They had emigrated from Scotland centuries before to escape the tyranny of England. No longer a young man, his memory spanned the deep hollers and ravines like the morning mist, each with a story of its own.

As the aging Gragg’s eye scanned the distant horizon, the mountainside was shrouded behind curious folds of clouds awash in pink and gold. Tiny birds flitted about as bats dove in the twilight air, creating an orchestra of life, ebbing forward and never ceasing.

Somewhere in the distant shadows, the sound of the Whippoorwill called. With it, an eeriness washed over his mind. A day or so before, he had sat upon the porch of the building he now called his “Retreat.” There, in the shade of the forest along the trickling brook, he sat sipping on some hot, bitter brew and reflected back to the year before when the porch had not yet been built. There had been so much that had passed between the here and now. Like the river that flowed nearby, its current like the movement of time, never stopping, always flowing onward. When the shadows of the valley of darkness are all about, we cannot seek the end of the ravine fast enough. Yet, when we reach those heights of jubilation, we often fail to remember the struggle that it took to scale those monumental walls to reach our peaks in life.

The beat of the aged Sycamore kept time to Fletch’s legs as he pushed ahead. Somewhere the Whippoorwill called once more. Like a shift in time, his mind was pulled back to the century before, to a time of greater hardship, much worse than today. The death toll made that of the current crisis seem like child’s play; the 1918 Swine Flu Pandemic.

Just then, the sound of the song, “Wayfaring Stranger,” began to play through his head. The ancient sound of a mandolin tickled the notes to the melody as the sweetness caressed his soul, “I am a poor, wayfaring stranger. Traveling through this world below. There is no sickness, toil nor danger, in that fair land to which I go. I’m going home, to see my mother, I’m going home, no more to roam. I am just going over Jordan, I am just going over home.”

Wilson Poe Sr. had been a little boy when the sickness swept through North Carolina. Born in 1912, he shared the story with Gragg when he was a much younger man, traveling through the Piedmont regions of North Carolina. Poe recalled in his whisper of a voice, how the soldiers had brought it back with them when they returned from the Spanish-American War. The sickness didn’t target the elderly or children, but rather, it killed the working-age population. Wilson’s head bowed deep in thought as he told of how he lost both his parents, all his aunts and uncles and all of his older brothers and sisters. The only family members that survived were him and his younger sister. They were forced to go live with their only surviving family members, their grandparents. Mr. Poe had been in his eighties when he told that story, somewhere around the mid-1990s. When old man Poe finally looked up from the floor, his eyes were rimmed with tears. He pointed to the bookshelf behind him to a framed image of a little boy and girl. Between them, oddly enough, stood a larger than a life-size doll. At that moment, through the open window, the evening sound of a Whippoorwill wafted into the room. Fletch could never erase the memory.

Someone had found the story in a magazine and recognized the name. They looked up Wilson and his family and were thrilled to have been able to connect with a living treasure, once only thought to have existed in the pages of a book. Wilson kept the photo as a memento of his survival.

The melody continued to play, “I know dark clouds will hover or me, I know my pathway is rough and steep, but golden fields lie out before me where weary eyes no more to weep. I’m going home to see my father; I’m going home no more to roam. I am just going over Jordan, I am just going over home.”

Poe said that some photographer who had been covering the pandemic, caught him and his sister standing alongside the road. Wilson remembered how they had watched in disbelief as wagon after wagon carried away the dead. Fletch could only shake his head as the knot swelled up in his throat when Wilson said that he and his sister had cried until there were no more tears left to cry.

Gragg’s footsteps carried him nearer to the shadows of the granite walls, where the river turns, and the mountain laurel grows thicker. He could almost hear the relics of the past echoing off those stone walls. “God has a purpose in all that we do,” he reminded himself as his thoughts continued.

Oddly enough, it was just as well that someone else had found the precious memory. Mr. Poe would have never been able to keep the picture himself. Struggles seemed to follow him all of his life, like the wagon of the dead. His house caught fire one cold winter night and burnt down. His family lost everything but their lives. Up in smoke went all of their earthly possessions, including the family photos.

Fletch stopped. He stood upon the water’s edge, as the shadows of darkness began to envelop the crystal-clear river before him. The remnants of the song concluded with, “I’ll soon be free from every trial; this form shall rest beneath the sod. I’ll drop the cross of self-denial and enter in that home with God. I’m going home to see my Savior; I’m going home no more to roam. I am just going over Jordan. I am just going over home.”

“Yes, this world must come to its senses, and lay down their cross of self-denial,” Fletch mused to himself. “Second Chronicles chapter seven says it the best,” he continued talking to the trees leaning toward the water’s edge as if they

appeared to wait for the rest of his quote. “ *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*”

Looking across the river, there was nothing but the cold, granite walls reaching up to the sky. Fletch closed his eyes as if to look beyond what was there, seeking something more profound than what was merely temporal. Dark wagons under thunderous skies rolled past him. The tears of sorrow blended with the rain, each flowing down his soaked body into the mud, which had swallowed his feet. The hushed tones of mournful cries seemed to leech into the grain of the wagon boards, filling the cracks until there was none. Etching the pain of ones being until there was nothing left to fear. The vision then looked to the sky, as if to ask God why. The swirling gray cauldron above looked like someone wringing their hands in tormented anguish. The flash of shadowed lightning turned his head to look away. Then came the answer in the form of a deep growl of distant thunder that shook the ground.

Somewhere nearby, the flash of a photographer taking a picture of two traumatized children standing near the roadway, caused him to flinch. It was as if mankind was trying to mimic the almighty power from above. Forever etched onto his monochrome plate was the form of two souls whose lives would never be the same; generation forever altered by the course of events, not of their own doing. Gragg sucked in a deep breath as if he had just surfaced from beneath the water. There before him was the stone walls covered in thick laurels. The darkness permeated evermore as the moon had already risen high above the horizon behind him. “This too shall pass,” he could hear his Granny tell the children as they would sit and listen to her tell them tales of yesteryear, always with giving the sense of comfort of one having survived worse times.

Fletch turned around to go back to his holler from whence he came. As he did, the Whippoorwill sang once more. Its cry echoed again off the canyon edifices bringing a chill up his spine. Up above the moonlight now lit his path and reflected golden rays across the silvery waters of the river nearby. Although some would fear the darkness, Fletch knew he wasn’t alone.

Many had survived worse times than these, and yes, many had gone on home to cross that river of Jordan to a far better place. Someday he would too.

The Whippoorwill called once more, and the voice echoed again, “This too shall pass.”

Thanks be to God.

Timothy W. Tron lives in Collettsville, NC. with his family. He is the former Director of the Trail of Faith in Valdese, where he still volunteers and helps with tours. He now teaches Math full time at Watauga High School in Boone. He is the author of a new Christian series, “Children of the Light,” with the first book being, “Bruecke to Heaven,” and his recent book, being the second, “The Light in the Darkness.” He is an active blogger, artist, and musician. Timothy also has a BSEE from UF, and is a Lay Speaker. He can be reached at twtron@live.com

MOUNTAINEER PAWN
SHOP



Hours:
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Sat- 9am-2pm

WHY PAY RETAIL?

Crazy Deal of the Month
1/2 Carat 14kt White Gold
Diamond Solitaire
\$240.⁰⁰

Your Ammunition Headquarters
10% OFF Law Enforcement Discount

Medterra CBD Oil tincture
New Broad Spectrum
Full plant extract without THC
CBD with additional beneficial compounds such
as CBG, CBN, CBC, CBDV, & natural terpenes.

NEED QUICK CASH?
We loan money on any item of value
30 years experience in the business

828-765-7651
12513 S 226 HWY • Spruce Pine, NC 28777

BRIAN CENTER

HEALTH & REHABILITATION

NOW HIRING

**Full Time, Part Time,
PRN Nurses and Certified
Nursng Assistants**

*who are energetic, friendly, team
oriented and committed to providing
compassionate care to our residents.*

COMPETITIVE WAGES!

**COMPREHENSIVE BENEFITS PACKAGE
AVAILABLE!**

ASK ABOUT OUR \$2,000 SIGN ON BONUS!

**Contact Shirley Topper or
Angela Wilson today!
828-765-7312**



Brian Center Spruce Pine
New Day

Snow Hill Baptist Church

No Regrets Family - Urgent Faith

By Dean Honeycutt
Mitchell County



I trust this article finds you well and coming to the end of the coronavirus pandemic. For the most part, my family has moderately complied with the social distancing guidelines. We realize the seriousness of the disease but at the same time, we know that God is overall. Faith over fear has truly been the model for our family.

We had concerns about this disease, however, we found it hard to believe everything we were hearing about the coronavirus. At times we did not know what to believe about it because the numbers and predictions kept changing. I recently discovered that the models used to project deaths and case numbers of COVID-19 are unpredictable and are flawed.

"The basic reproductive ratio, R 0, is one of the fundamental concepts in mathematical biology. It is a threshold parameter, intended to quantify the spread of disease by estimating the average number of secondary infections in a wholly susceptible population. Despite its place at the forefront of mathematical epidemiology, the concept of R 0 is deeply flawed. There are many methods to calculate R 0 from mathematical models, few of which agree with each other and few of which produce the average number of secondary infections" (The Failure of Ro. Computational and Mathematical Methods in Medicine August 16, 2011; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3157160/>).

R0 is affected by numerous biological, socio-behavioral, and environmental factors that govern pathogen transmission and, therefore, is usually estimated with various types of complex mathematical models, which make R0 easily misrepresented, misinterpreted, and misapplied. (Complexity of the Basic Reproduction Number; https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/25/1/17-1901_article)

It was extremely difficult for us not to shake hands and hug people. I trust at the reading of this article that we are back to fellowshiping with one another. The fellowship is at the core of our Christian beliefs and practice in the church. We know that a sinful woman wept at the feet of Jesus kissing his feet and anointing them with perfume. She was showing how sorrowful she was for her sin and how much she loved Jesus. Jesus then rebuked the host of the home he was in saying to the pharisee "you did not greet me with a holy kiss, wash my feet, or anoint my head with oil" which were all customary practices during the time of Jesus.

Touch is an expression of love and affirmation. My wife has great insight noting that her dad of 81 years has been handshaking and hugging all his life. It is amazing to me how people are so quick to jump on the "science train" and follow recommendations that may or may not be fully accurate. For example, at first, we were told not to wear a mask and then a few weeks later we were recommended to wear a mask. We were told to stay away from groups of 100, 50, 10, and then as few as five people to a group. My family alone is more than five people. I am not saying the recommendations were bad or ill-advised.

I would feel horrible if I infected someone I know or let alone a family member. But it was extremely difficult if not impossible to totally disassociate myself from family members. Social distancing proved to be effective as numbers began to decrease. We are fighting the invisible enemy. However, this virus is not invisible to God or beyond his wisdom and control. God can certainly prevent me from going to places or meeting people who may be infected. I realize God is "no respecter of persons" it rains on the just and unjust. I trust the sovereign will of God and realize that God never makes a mistake. I will try my best not to test God and trust His sovereign plan and my role in what He is doing. Consider this verse. Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV 1900)

5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; And lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, And he shall direct thy paths.

God must be the one directing my path or course of life as I try my best to submit my life to Him as a servant daily. I try to take the Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego approach to life when they were threatened by the fiery furnace. I am not going to go jump in the fire, just as I would not purposefully expose myself to the virus. However, if I get sick God can deliver me. Granted it is easy to talk this way seeing I have never suffered a major illness or disease, but I have known many Christians who have much like our very own Doug Harrell who testifies to God's grace amid suffering. And much like our beloved Paul. 2 Corinthians 12:9 *9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

2 Corinthians 4:15-18

15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. 16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

At times it is difficult to walk by faith and not by sight. Who would intentionally walk around with their eyes closed? God is not asking us to walk in blind faith; He is asking us to trust Him in areas we cannot physically see with our eyes and things we cannot control. Trust and faith say, "God I do not know what tomorrow holds, but I do know who holds tomorrow".

May God bless you as we live and go forward in faith. May our churches not go back to normal. I pray our new normal is greater faith and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with urgency because our "redemption draws near".

Happy Mother's Day and love to all.

Pastor Dean Honeycutt shepherds Snow Hill Baptist Church in Bakersville, NC. He may be reached at 828-385-0213, snowhillbaptist@gmail.com, or visit their website at www.snowhillbaptist.com.

Isolation?

By Jim Huskins
McDowell County

Sometime in the aftermath of WWII, many among us developed a fascinating set of core convictions which include: We have been freed from the “drudgery” of food production. Technology will mitigate the effects of infirmity and aging. The fact and functions of human gender no longer apply. Greed is now a virtue. If these propositions are true, then paradise is now technically feasible, and God is no longer necessary.

Contrarian perspective can be found in a Maurice Telleen editorial circa 1980: “Despite all our achievements, we owe our existence to six inches of topsoil and the fact that it rains.” As evidence that moderns have not superseded the boundaries of the human condition, I propose that nothing says needy like “global pandemic.”

Every great civilization concluded that “they” were invincible. Soon after any culture “realized” that the rules no longer applied to them, those storied empires met destruction. Many were defeated in battle. Others succumbed to internal struggle. Almost all were gutted by unsound economic policies and dependence on government programs. Many of history’s strongest powers collapsed because they outgrew their resource base. Others fell to disease and/or poor sanitation. Of course, none of these situations apply to us. This time things are different....

Those empires contained minority voices who protested that their nation was on a destructive path. Proverbs 16:18 states that “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” Ancient Greece coined a word for the pride that portends destruction. The Greeks recognized what Merriam Webster defines as “a dangerous character flaw capable of provoking the wrath of the gods.” They called it hubris: “overconfidence which leads to overstepping the boundaries of human limitation and assuming godlike status.” In Greek literature, hubris always leads to tragedy. Without a doubt, many philosophers screamed as those in charge raced along the highway which carried Greece from World Ruler to more than a millenium as a loose amalgamation of goat herders and fishing villages.

Even a cursory reading of the Bible confirms that our Hebrew forebears valued wisdom. Hebrew wisdom is superior to any other since its source is the Author of Existence. He has shown us how to live. The Bible teaches that, as a result of our sin, mankind will never escape our need to work to eat. The fact that some can afford to pay others to do that work for them does not invalidate the rule. We may be entering a time when many will welcome opportunities to engage in the “drudgery” of food production since the alternative could be starvation.

The Bible does teach that knowledge will increase during our last days. It also implies that the pace of living will increase. Human life expectancy is generally longer now that at most points in our history, but no Biblical prophecy suggests profound changes in technology which will keep us from growing old and/or dying.

Scripture teaches that male and female gender is a divine gift. God created the two sexes to work together and complement each other. He treasures that arrangement. Every blurring or diminishment of gender role—including cross-dressing—the Bible labels “abomination.”

Arguably, the Bible has more to say about greed than any other topic. The original sin was prompted by greed for knowledge. The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. I long for actual free enterprise and free trade even as I suspect that both concepts have fallen from official favor and will soon be labeled “unnecessary luxuries” by those who actually make decisions. Was it unwise for us to become dependent on an economic model that does not recognize the concept of “enough?” Is it accidental that this hubristic age should find itself in mortal combat with a virus?

My suspicion that Covid 19 is not entirely “natural” does not detract from its gravity. Many have died. Many more will follow. No one can accurately predict the cumulative effect, but unintended consequences of our containment efforts may produce social and economic impact more devastating than the disease.

One inescapable result of isolation is an awareness of being alone. We are social by nature. Even if we are spending this surreal period with the most important person or persons in the world, lack of ready access to all those other important ones is, at times, debilitating. Do not despair.

Fortunately, the Bible is a unified narrative about fellowship. God so treasures our company that He created us to be His companions. We opted instead for the fleeting pleasures of sin, but He was willing to pay an unimaginable price for us. All we have to do is follow the one who promised to never leave us or forsake us. His terms are summarized in John 14:15. “If you love me, keep my commandments.” He never says that grace makes obedience unnecessary. Such claims are pure hubris.

Many pastors, teachers, and theologians tell us that the first two-thirds of the Bible has been canceled. Paul teaches in 2 Timothy 3:16: “All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.” When he wrote those words, the so-called New Testament did not exist.

Never has it been more important for believers to know what the Bible actually teaches. The only way to do that is to read it from the beginning with an open mind. I challenge you to start that process today and to test everything you have been taught against scripture. In these troubled times, anything less than first-hand knowledge of God’s Word will lead to tragedy.

Obedient Heart Fellowship believes that the entire Bible is true and relevant. We accept salvation by grace through faith in Jesus, and we attempt to love and serve Him by keeping his commandments. See Revelation 14:12. We will resume meeting each Sabbath—Seventh Day—in Marion after present health concerns are resolved. lostranger@mindspring.com

Jim & Beverly Huskins are members of Obedient Heart Fellowship.



Surviving the Storm

By Christy Young
Mitchell County



Many have said that there are two kinds of people, those going through a crisis (a storm) and those who will go through a crisis (a storm). Seems like the past several weeks, we all find ourselves going through a storm as we have never encountered before. COVID-19 has definitely impacted our lives in a way that we will never forget. We find ourselves being put in “time-out”. The world as we know it has slowed down and we are facing times that we have never faced before. So how do we embrace and survive the storm? Do we become anxious, worry, and fret about the coming days? Or do we stand still and know that God is God through good and bad times. This storm may be a hardship on many of us, but I know that “all things work good for those who love the Lord.” No doubt that this storm will and has left a major impact on us. Most times these hardships in our lives seem to rush upon us, seemingly random, but they are not. Matthew 5:45 says, “For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.” These past weeks have been difficult not being able to attend church and assemble with my church family. But God always has a plan. With the obedience of many churches, pastors, and leaders; many have been reached through social media. I am hearing how God is working and reaching people amid the storm. 2 Corinthians 4:17 says, “For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!” We may be anxious about our finances, jobs, groceries, and much more. But we, as children of God will survive the storm. We can choose to embrace the quiet time that God has granted us right now and draw closer to Him, or we can let our circumstances control our emotions. We cannot control the future, nor this coronavirus...But I know Who Does! I truly believe that God will use this crisis for His immeasurable great glory! 2 Corinthians 4:18 says, “So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.” Thankfully, storms never last forever. Weathering the storm is part of life. Face this storm with the protection of God, realizing that He is your shield. Believe in faith that at the end of the storm is a rainbow. A promise that God is always with you and wrapping you up in His everlasting love. Choose to survive the storm submerged in the presence of God!

Christy Young is the blessed wife of Chris Young and proud mother of Hunter and Holden. She is a life-long resident of Mitchell County, works at Mitchell County Finance Office, and is a member of Bear Creek Baptist Church.

She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. Proverbs 31:26-27



Jamie Miller, CPA

Jamie M. Miller, CPA, PLLC

1136 Greenwood Road
Spruce Pine, NC 28777

phone: 828.765.4400
fax: 828.765.4880

30 Fleming Ave
Marion, NC 28752

phone: 828.652.6777
fax: 828.652.6755



jamie@highcountrycpa.com

www.highcountrycpa.com



Jonathan's
USED
APPLIANCES

- Come and see the friendly staff at Jonathan's for all your appliance needs.
- We repair all major brands of appliances.
- We repair Monitor Heaters!

Cash It, Don't Trash It!
We buy your used appliances!

149 Roan St., Spruce Pine, NC
828-766-9005 • (Cell) 828-766-9389

We Deliver!

- Washers
- Dryers
- Stoves
- Refrigerators

www.brcnews.com

May 2020 - Blue Ridge Christian News page 7

High Country Prison Ministry

By Jody Griffin
Avery and Mitchell County

“...and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Amen. (Matthew 28:20, KJV)



The promise of God’s Presence is perhaps one of the most misunderstood of all the promises found in Scripture. Our human understanding cannot perceive of a God Who will be with us through good AND bad, through ups AND downs, through our righteous living AND in the midst of our sin. Yet that is exactly what Jesus declared to His disciples before He ascended again into the heavens.

It is this very Promise that I have been privileged to remind the community that makes up AMCI during these most challenging times. “He is here. He is Present among us, and for that singular reason we can trust that all is well.” The disciples who heard these words would soon find themselves facing threats to their safety and well-being, yet they would press on and they would trust that God was with them.

Being separated from one’s family is perhaps the single most difficult consequence for many or even most of the incarcerated. It has been such an honor for me to be a source of encouragement to the men I serve. And I am blessed beyond measure to encourage staff members each day who know that their work is truly “essential”. No doubt, there is a great risk to all during days of the pandemic. But we MUST remember that we are NOT alone.

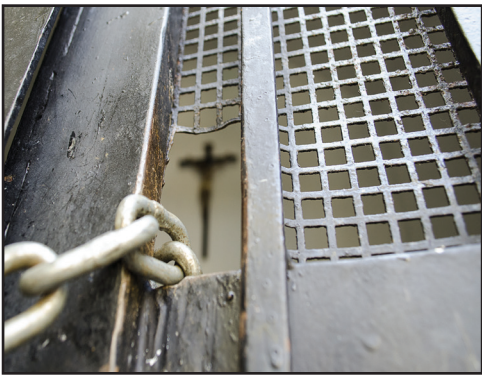
God’s Presence is part of God’s Sovereignty, and God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit keeps this Divine Promise even as we fail to recognize it.

How might this Promise help all of us today? Here is a suggestion...Make this Promise of God a mantra that carries you through.

“He is here. He is Present among us, and for this singular reason I will trust that all is well.” A mantra is designed as a repetitive word or phrase used in meditation. Though often associated with Eastern religions such as Buddhism and Hinduism it has also been employed as a tool in the Christian faith to aid the individual in entering most fully into the Presence of Christ. Can’t you see the potential for God’s Blessing to be made known to you as you repeat this mantra throughout the day?

Thank you to all who are praying for us at AMCI! We know your prayers as a source of comfort and peace during these days. We are anxiously awaiting the days when volunteers and visitors are among us again! Until then, we are depending upon the Promise of His Presence to sustain us through these days and to deliver us into a future filled with hope! “He is here! He is Present among us and for this singular reason we will trust that all is well!” Thanks, Be to God!

Jody Griffin is pastor of Central Baptist Church in Spruce Pine and Community Funded Chaplain at Avery-Mitchell Correctional Institution.



THE PRESCRIPTION PAD OF BURNSVILLE

“The Service You Deserve from the Neighbors You Trust”

- *We accept all major insurance plans
- *Drive-thru window
- *Easy transfers
- *Delivery service available
- *Over 150 years of retail pharmacy experience
- *Open 7 days a week
- *Locally owned and operated
- *Ask about our “Healthy Kids Program”



HOURS:
M-F 8am-7pm
Sat. 8am-4pm
Sun. 10am-3pm

730 E. Main St. - Burnsville
828-678-3914

CAROLINA FLOORING

A Christian Owned Business

WE ARE COMMITTED TO HELPING OUR CUSTOMERS ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS BY PROVIDING HIGH-QUALITY FLOORING SERVICES



OUR HARDWORKING TEAM CAN TAKE CARE OF ALL YOUR FLOORING NEEDS!

906 W Union St
Morganton, NC 28655
Telephone: (828) 475-1192

BEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Welcomes You to
Celebrate Recovery
Thursdays at 7:00pm
Hope & Help from
Addiction Through Christ

Buff's Tire & Service

**YOUR ONE-STOP
TOTAL CAR CARE
EXPERTS!**



FOR ALL THINGS AUTO, TAKE IT TO BUFF'S!
Check Engine Diagnosis • Alignments • Brakes • Oil Changes • Inspections
1211 BURKEMONT AVE., MORGANTON, NC
Located in: Magnolia Plaza • 828-438-3800
“We’ve Moved Across the Street next to Rural King. Come See Us!”

Seasons of Our Lives

By Doug Harrell
Mitchell County

This is May 2020. May of 2019 was the last month that Barbara and I worked full time on the Blue Ridge Christian News and it seems like only yesterday. We both feel so blessed to have been able to publish what we always referred to as God's Paper. One of the biggest blessings we have had is to watch the continued growth and reach of the paper under new ownership, well not really ownership, since I still feel that it is God's Paper, but at least new leadership. One of the things that we had always prayed for was that the paper would continue after we were gone and no longer a large part of the direction. My sincere thanks and appreciation to Brian and his team for continuing the work before them.

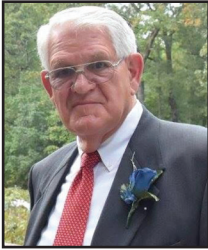
There are still moments, even days, that I miss the constant interaction with all the people involved, the readers, the contributors and the advertisers that supported the paper. It left a huge hole in our lives when we were no longer there.

I have said these things to bring it to the point that we all have seasons in our lives that we deal with, times change in a manner that we cannot stop or redirect in so many ways. Looking back at the paper, Barbara, and I both realize that God knew it was time for us to move over, to give up the role of leadership to a younger, more energetic individual. We as individuals don't always want to admit that we are getting older and not as capable as we once were, we want our youthful vigor to continue and think we can still run the race and carry the load we always had before, but our Lord knows better. As the Bible tells us, there is a time to sow and a time to reap, a time to sing and a time to be sad. The most important thing we can do is to do our best with what talents we have and not hide them under a bucket, to let your light shine brightly from the mountain top as long as God allows you to do that.

I personally have a hard time accepting the fact that my physical strength and stamina is not what it used to be, but give thanks and I hope each of you do as well, for the ability to do and accomplish what I can do. The great commission for each of us is to reach as many with the good news of Christ as possible in whatever way we possibly can, using whatever talents we might have. Regardless of age and ability, I pray that as your seasons change you never, and I never, lose the desire to make some small difference in someone's life as frequently as possible. We always have the ability to smile rather than frown, to praise rather than complain, to give thanks rather than just requesting more.

Recognize your seasons as a blessing in life, give all you can give, love all you can love, praise all you can praise, be a witness as long as you may live.

“Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;” Psalms 103:13-17 KJV



Doug Harrell is a life-long resident of Mitchell County, Owner of Harrell Hill Farms, Inc, a member of Bear Creek Baptist Church.

First Baptist Church Nebo

Lasting Joy in a Wandering World

By Cody Penland
McDowell County



“For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” – Romans 14:17

In March 2019, Australian citizen Brenton Tarrant walked into two New Zealand mosques and killed over fifty persons simply because they were Muslims. In July, multimillionaire Jeffrey Epstein was accused of operating a child sex-trafficking ring, but he committed suicide before he could face trial. In November, the House of Representatives voted to impeach President Donald Trump amidst allegations that he abused his power in attempting to persuade Ukrainian officials to investigate potential Democratic opponents in the upcoming Presidential election. Today, we are seeing countless news reports on the COVID-19 Pandemic—an issue that has dominated the thoughts and minds of the world for the last several weeks. It is no secret that the everyday evil in our world and society dominates the headlines of the national news and your local newspaper. Is the news media fixated on bad news, or is it inadvertently acknowledging that the Bible is right in saying that we live in a broken world that wanders around in search of something more? (1 John 5:19, for example)

The apostle Paul tells us in his letter to the Romans that “*For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit*” (Rom. 14:17). One could look at this broken, wandering world that we live in, and stand in helplessness in their attempts to conjure up ways to find lasting “goodness and peace and joy.” Nevertheless, Paul’s words in the infallible Word of God apply to us today; the struggle to attain everlasting joy and contentment while living in this world is one that we are commanded to embrace.

What is joy? Instead of providing speculation or the dictionary definition, it is necessary to look in the Bible to find this answer. In 2 Samuel, David, while naked, “*danced before the Lord with all his might,*” because the Lord chose him (2 Samuel 6:15). When Michal challenged this in disgust, David said that “*Yes, and I am willing to look even more foolish than this, even to be humiliated in my own eyes!*” (6:22a). In the parable of the Prodigal Son, the father celebrated the return of his son, “*for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found*” (Luke 15:24). The wise men showed great joy when they saw the star that represented the birth of Christ, in fact, the Bible says that they were “*filled with joy!*” (Matthew 2:10).

Through these examples, the Bible tells us several key things about joy. For starters, joy is a state of intense happiness. It may be in the form of dancing, in the salvation of lost loved ones, in the eyewitness of the movement of Christ, or many others. David dancing naked and wildly shows us that biblical joy does not worry about how others view their happiness. The parable of the Prodigal Son proves that joy often does not result from worldly understanding. In fact, true biblical joy is centered in Christ Jesus, as displayed by the wise men. How does one attain lasting joy and contentment? While there may not be a “one size fits all” method, it seems that these five ways, optimally done together, will bring you victory over the struggle:

Be centered in Christ Jesus. Many teenagers and young adults engage in the existential struggle to “find themselves,” either not realizing or accepting the reality that the center of our identity is Christ himself! This reality, in turn, informs us of a Godly way of living, and a restructuring of our priorities. Joy is one of the fruits of the spirit (Gal. 5:22), so how can one find true and lasting joy without Christ living in them?

Move on from the past. Paul regularly persecuted Christians before his indescribable conversion to Christ. To be able to serve Christ in the ways that he did, Paul had to not only be filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, but he also needed to admit, confess, repent, and move on from his past. The past cannot be allowed to hold you back from the plan that Christ has for you, for in living for Christ and engaging in the journey of fulfilling His plan is where joy is found.

Let go of your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us plainly that we are to trust the Lord and not our own manmade understanding. It also says that we are to acknowledge him, and he will then make our paths according to His Perfect Will. The parable of the Prodigal Son informs us that God operates in ways that we cannot understand regardless! It is perfectly reasonable to look at the tragedies of this world and be sorrowful, but we must also remember to trust in the Lord. When we face any persecution for the faith, remember that Paul suffered greatly in the Bible but is receiving his reward in Heaven!

Always keep looking upward to the Lord. In a 1975 crusade in Lubbock, Texas, Billy Graham said that “no man ever turned away from God and found happiness and peace and joy that was permanent and lasting.” The wise men looked up, were reminded of the Lord’s Will and were filled with joy. David danced wildly without concern regarding his appearance, nor man’s reputation placed upon him; he was focused on dancing for the Lord. Staying in consistent, fervent prayer keeps us focused on Him and gives us “ears to hear” for the next steps we are to take in our walk. Most of all, regular prayer, worship, and study keeps our relationship with Christ fresh and active!

Rejoice in what the Lord is doing, has done, and will do for you! Although Easter celebrations are fun—having the children at church hunt for Easter eggs is a blast in itself—the true celebration of Easter should be done every day! I encourage you to look around and soak in the beauty of the creation. Think about what the Lord has helped you overcome, and the victory you have in Him. Prepare yourself for His return!

My prayer for you today is that you find the lasting joy and contentment that Christ desires for you to have. I pray that you make Christ the center of your iden-

continued on page 33

Call the agents
who call
North Carolina
home.

The Thorny Crown Virus

By Tracy Jessup

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.” --- Psalm 22:1-2

In what ways are the coronavirus and isolation affecting you psychologically? Do you feel more resilient and focused, or do you feel an increase in anxiety, depression, or something else? How do these issues manifest in your life? David Brooks, an opinion columnist with The Times, posed these questions to his readers in an article titled, “Mental Health in the Age of the Coronavirus: The struggle between fear and comfort” (4/2/20). He included a form at the end of the article for those willing to share their psychological state.

The Psalmist willingly shared his struggles. In fact, many scholars have noted that more Psalms are classified as laments than any other category. Laments are passionate expressions of grief, sorrow, or regret and they serve as beautiful examples of the human struggle. Psalm 22 is a lament that is familiar to many because Jesus quotes verse one from the cross: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Jesus is the best possible companion for those who are depressed and feel abandoned by God, because on the cross, Jesus felt abandoned by God. But we can look back on Jesus, the proof of God’s love, and remember that God has not abandoned us to our pain. Philip Yancey writes, “Those disciples who gazed at the cross from the shadows, soon learned what they had failed to learn in three years with their leader: When God seems absent, he may be closest of all. When God seems dead, he may be coming back to life” (Disappointment With God, p. 211).

In a March 18, 2020 blog article, Dr. Timothy Tennent, the President of Asbury Theological Seminary, makes a fascinating connection between the coronavirus and the season of Lent. “One of the central symbols of Lent is the thorny crown. It reminds us of sacrifice and self-denial. It is a symbol of the cost Jesus paid. The term “corona” in “coronavirus” is a word meaning “crown.” It is because the virus, under extreme magnification, actually looks like a thorny crown; therefore, it is - quite literally - the thorny crown virus. The coronavirus reminds us that as Christians we always - even when there is no virus in our midst - embody the sufferings of the world. Lent is the time when we are particularly reminded of that great truth.”

During this Holy Week in which we remember the passion of Christ, we allow ourselves space to lament. Standing at a distance and seeing Jesus on the cross, we witness darkness covering the whole land (cf. Luke 23:44). And following Joseph of Arimathea to the tomb, we wait – holding on to the hope of resurrection. Prayer: Lord, in the midst of the depression and pain we sometimes experience in life, help us to remember that your resurrection power ultimately triumphs over darkness and despair.

Dr. Tracy Jessup serves as vice president for Christian Life and Service and senior minister to the University. He is a graduate of Gardner-Webb with a B.A. in Music and earned his M. Div. degree at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He also teaches in the undergraduate department of religious studies and enjoys the opportunity to serve the local church through interim pastorates, pulpit supply, and preaching revival services. He and his wife, Teresa, have two children, Christian and Anna.



By Terry Cheek
McDowell County

We’re going to continue our new series of articles titled Unlikely people that God used. We’re going to learn from God's word there isn’t anyone the Lord will not use if they will come on His terms. My inspiration comes from the many people I have to meet with awe-some testimonies of being saved from sin, drugs, alcohol, dangers and even themselves. Yet, despite their awesome testimonies many of them feel God has no place for them. Talking with them has made me realize there are a lot of born-again believers who for whatever reason believe God won’t use them because of their past. I want them and everyone reading this series to know that God's word is filled with men and women who were saved from devastating situations and moved forward to proclaim the gospel and lead many to Christ. This series will share the stories of many from God's word and my prayer is that it will encourage you to be obedient to God's call for your life and let Him call others through you.

Let’s take a look at Enoch from the Old Testament. We know from Genesis 5:24 “And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.” Enoch was not someone who failed God and repented of that failure to return and serve Him in amazing ways. No, Enoch’s life was defined by a lifetime of service. There are men and women today who have served God quietly, faithfully and without any recognition. Those folks who only want to see souls saved and the gospel shared across the world. Enoch was someone we can regard as a hero because Enoch stood strong over a long time. He refused to compromise; that’s why Hebrews 11:5 says “By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.” Enoch did so not for a few decades but for three hundred years!

Enoch’s world was much different than ours. Earth had not yet been destroyed and rearranged into its present form through God's destruction by flood. A person’s life was measured in centuries, not decades. For example, Enoch was born only 622 years after creation, the seventh generation from Adam. Enoch’s great-grandson was Noah and we remember his famous story about the Ark and its completion when Noah was 600 years old.

Enoch lived during an age of corruption, rebellion, and moral decay; his culture looked a lot like ours. That is where we can find encouragement! If Enoch can survive 300 years and live in such a way that it impresses God, we can too. After all, Enoch lived by Faith, look at Hebrew’s 11:5 again it opens with “By Faith.” Today’s Christian is saved by grace through faith and that faith comes by Jesus Christ. We place our faith in Him because of His life, death, burial, and resurrection. After all

Jesus defeated death, hell, and the grave. What greater authority can we place our faith in? Enoch like Elijah may seem remarkable even impossible for us to emulate. Not so. James gave us a little insight into the person of Elijah and since he and Enoch had so much in common, I believe James 5:17 applies to both.

“Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.” These great people of God were subject to the same passions as you and I. The same trials and temptations yet they lived in such a way to glorify God and be salt and light during their lifetime.

I didn’t say Enoch was popular. If we really explore God's word, we find that His people were never popular with the government or society. I think that is something we must realize. When Jesus told us, we cannot serve two masters He really meant it. Enoch served only God. Yes, he had to work and provide and live but found a way to do it and glorify God. Like Enoch, we too can find this life. I recommend we do like Enoch did, listen to God. We have His word our Bible and today we can open it regularly, spend time in it and allow it to speak to our hearts.





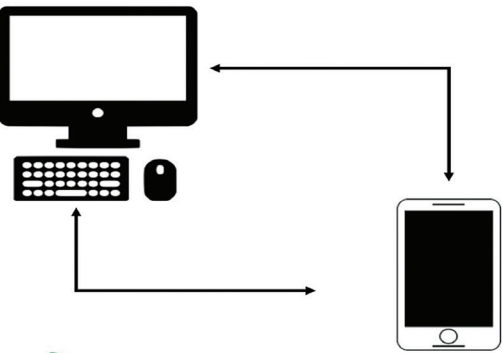
It will lead us to salvation, service, and a serious relationship we allow it. So, let us consider Enoch as we think about an example in our daily walk with God. Until we meet again in person or print, may God richly bless you is my prayer!

Terry is the Executive Director and broadcaster of The Inspiring Word media ministry. You can contact Terry by email at theinspiringword@gmail.com Or by visiting www.theinspiring-word.org



Check out our Website-www.brcnews.com
And find us on Facebook

Virtual Care Available



MCHP
MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

The Belt of Truth

By Caron Cline
Burke County

On the day that an individual bows the knee to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, the devil declares war. He has one blueprint that has been fairly successful in shaking the faith of many a saint and we would be wise to prepare ourselves for his attacks. Fortunately, our Father has provided the armor necessary to sufficiently protect our soul and that armor is Jesus, Himself. The descriptions of the armor in Ephesians 6 are brief because Paul has already described each piece throughout this letter. He uses the belt of the Roman soldier as a word picture to describe the importance of truth in the life of a believer.

Ephesians 6:10-14 says *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist...”*

Roman soldiers wore belts that were made of thick, heavy leather. They were called ‘balteus’ and held the soldier’s sword and a small shield as well as holding the rest of the armor in place. The belt also had 5 leather straps hanging over the lower half of the front of the body. Since Paul referred to this as the belt of truth, some scholars believe it refers to the 5 ministry gifts listed in Ephesians 4:11-12. These 5 gifts all involve the teaching of God’s truth to the saints for their maturity in matters of faith. Note that the belt covered the area of the body used for reproduction and elimination. Our responsibility is to produce fruit based on God’s truth and eliminate error that rises up against the truth. A belt encircles and protects our core. The belt of truth is mentioned first because Jesus is our foundation, the strength, and the center of our very being. Everything is contingent upon our decision to operate in the truth. Truth holds everything else in place. We must be people of the Word; living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. (Matthew 4:4) How much of the truth do we digest each day? It has been said that Martin Luther memorized the entire Bible in Latin and that John Wesley memorized almost the entire Greek New Testament. These men changed the world because they were saturated with truth internally and they lived it out externally. The word of truth is synonymous with the gospel of our salvation. In John 14:6 Jesus tells His disciples that He is the way, the truth, and the life and that no man or woman can come to the Father except through Him.

Truth is not only the gospel message but is also a lifestyle. A Sunday school teacher asked a little boy to define a lie. He said, ‘it’s an abomination to God and a very present help in time of trouble’. So many have this mindset concerning truth; it is relative. It is easy to justify deception to cover ourselves, but as Christians, we no longer need to cover ourselves, for we are covered by the blood of Jesus. Truth is to be our foundation. Satan and his cohorts are allergic to truth. Keeping people from hearing and believing the truth is their main objective.

In John 8:44-47 Jesus said, *“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies”*. The devil is a liar and there is no truth in him. The minds of unbelievers have been blinded by Satan so that they cannot understand the truth. He works overtime to keep them from receiving God’s word.

In Mark 4:1-16, Jesus told the parable of the sower and teaches us a powerful lesson concerning one of Satan’s top priorities: to steal the seed of God’s Word.



He understands more than anyone the potential within each seed. Yet, the enemy cannot stop the sovereign will of God and every believer is living proof of that truth. Those who receive Jesus are given eternal life and as if this were not enough, we are also given this protective gear so that we can stand firm against our adversary, the devil.

Our lives must be built on the foundation of God’s word, His truth, or it will fall apart at the first sign of a storm. The saddest thing today seems to be the lack of most Christian’s biblical knowledge. Neglect of the truth has opened the door to demonic oppression and deception for many believers. Unrest and chaos seem to be the rule instead of the exception in the lives and homes of those who call themselves people of the truth. When we choose to deceive ourselves or others, we have joined forces with our Father’s archenemy and that is not the side we must choose.

Warren Wiersbe wrote on this matter of deception. *“Once a lie gets into the life of a believer, everything begins to fall apart. For over a year, King David lied about his sin with Bathsheba and nothing went right. When David repented, he wrote Psalm 32. Living a lie forfeited the blessings of God in his life. Dishonesty is a disease in our society and the church. We must remove all deception from our lives”*.

In Ephesians 6:14a, my translation says *‘having fastened on the belt of truth’*, but many translations say *‘having girded your waist with truth’*. Those leather straps that hung down in front of the soldier were a danger during times of combat. The soldier would tuck them into the belt so that he could move without being hindered. We have already established that we are in a spiritual battle day in and day out. Every time the enemy tries to trip us up with a lie, we must combat it with the truth. Scripture memorization is the key to victory over these lies. We must hide the word of God within our hearts and the Holy Spirit will take those words and bring them to our remembrance during every spiritual battle. We must be people of action, unhindered by the lies of the enemy. Each time we choose truth, we are protecting ourselves from the schemes of the devil.

We must abide in the truth of God’s Word by putting on the belt of truth and that truth will set us free to operate in power and authority. We will not be victims, but victors!

Caron Cline is a follower of Jesus Christ who loves to teach the word of God. Her desire is to see every believer growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.

Sossoman
Funeral Home & Crematory Center

Rick Hood Lisa Hood Dotty Kirksey Jimmy Kirksey

Our Family Serving Yours Since 1949

1011 South Sterling Street • Morganton, NC 28655
(828) 437-3211 • www.Sossomanfh.com

Miller
Insurance Group, Inc.

AUTO•HOME•BUSINESS•LIFE

(828) 765-1711

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO
DOING OUR BEST FOR YOU!
And Our Community**

*“INSURANCE is the most IMPORTANT thing
a person has because it protects him against
the loss of everything he has in the world.”*

-H.O. Hirt, ERIE Founder

Erie
Insurance®

7548A Hwy 19E, Spruce Pine, NC • www.miller-insurance-group.com

Psalm 119 Most Important Lesson

By Shawn Thomas - Angleton, Texas

” How blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the Law of the LORD.” (Psalm 119:1)

Well, that eliminates all of us, doesn't it?! Psalm 119 is such a majestic Psalm. It is the longest Psalm, the longest chapter in the entire Bible in fact, at 176 verses. It is divided into 22 sections of eight verses, the verses of each section all starting with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet (:1-8 all begin with Aleph, 9-16 all begin with Beth, etc.). And the theme of Psalm 119 is the incomparable word of God. It is well worth our time to read, study, and apply. But it begins with a convicting message which must not be overlooked:

The very first verse of Psalm 119 says: “How blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the Law of the LORD.” There is much on which to “chew” in Psalm 119, but we need to digest this first: there are NONE of us who qualify for the blessing of this first verse! Who among us can say: “My way is BLAMELESS”? Who can assert that they walk entirely in the Law of the Lord? Sure, we should strive to do so; but the fact is, we are going to fall of it — every one of us. This is just what the scripture indicates: “there is none righteous, not even one.” (Romans 3:10)

So with all that Psalm 119 has to teach us about studying, memorizing, and applying God's word to our lives in various situations, the very FIRST lesson it has to teach us is perhaps its most important: that we have all BROKEN God's Law, and we need a Savior. Like all scripture, the most important thing Psalm 119 does, points us to Jesus.

Shawn Thomas is a Southern Baptist pastor for almost 35 years, I currently serve as Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Angleton, Texas.



A Few Of The Lessons I Have Learned From COVID-19

By Bruce Cannon
Mitchell County



COVID-19 has been a great teacher! It has shown us that our ways of life can change quickly and completely. Normality ceased weeks ago and now we are dealing with new norms: isolation, a school in the home, layoffs, shortages in the grocery stores and how we do Church.

A few of the things I have learned from COVID-19 are:

1) Do Not Take Things for Granted. Did I do that? Have we done that? Did we get complacent in our way of life? Did we take the Lord for granted? Did we take worship for granted? Did we think corporate worship would always go on? How I miss that! How I miss the hugs and handshakes! How I miss the choir anthems, solos, and the sense of the presence of God when we worshipped Him! While I am thankful for being able to use technology to get the Message out, I deeply miss being together while worshipping!

2) So many wonderful pastors in the U.S. have all related COVID-19 to the coming storms that will occur during the Tribulation Period. How many times has Matthew 24:6-8 been quoted in the past few weeks: “And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.”

Dr. David Jeremiah in a recent message said that COVID-19 is not a precursor to the Rapture of the Church. He stated that there was nothing that had to take place before the Lord comes for His bride; that the Lord could come today with or without COVID-19. COVID-19 would be more related to the plagues and pestilences that will begin taking place immediately following the Rapture. That seven-year period, known as the Tribulation Period and lasting seven years, will be characterized by cataclysmic war, famine, disease and so forth.

Growing up on the coast of North Carolina caused Wendy and me to experience many hurricanes. When the actual storm struck one would experience hours of 100+mph winds. Houses would creak and groan, trees would be blown down and tremendous damage done to the property. However, the day before the storm struck weather conditions would begin deteriorating as feeder bands from the storm came over. These were much weaker than the actual storm and would consist of heavy winds and rain but were nothing compared to the actual storm.

COVID-19 is not the storm! It is only a precursor of what the actual storm will be when it hits. Thankfully, born-again Christians will not be left on earth to experience the Tribulation Period. But we will experience the conditions that lead up to it. Will there be more COVID-19 viruses before the Lord comes? Will COVID-19 be a recurring problem such as the flu? Some think so.

What should we do? What must we do? Sow the Word! Beg God for a harvest of souls! Identify ourselves with the sins of our Country and beg the Lord for forgiveness, mercy, and help. America worships every god known to man and that is the one thing the Lord will not tolerate. America is also guilty of ignoring the teachings of the Word in censoring the Bible, prayer in Jesus' Name while approving porn, aborting babies, and same-sex marriage.

How we need the Lord's blessings! How we need to practice II Chronicles 7:14 for Him to hear our prayer, forgive our sins and heal our land.

How we need to pray for our local, state, and national leaders that they would understand that the Lord is the answer to all of our problems. He is the way, the truth, and the life. He alone can lead us back to Himself and place us in a position where He can bless us, protect us, and provide for our needs again.

Pray with me that COVID-19 would cause a tremendous turn to the Lord and that genuine revival would sweep our nation. Grant it Father, we pray, in Jesus' Name! Amen!

Rev. Bruce Cannon currently serves as the Senior Pastor of Bear Creek Baptist Church in Bakersville. Formerly he served as Director of Missions for the Bladen Baptist Association and has served on the General Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Exodus 20:12 - Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. Proverbs 22:6

Discoverer AT3 LT™
Stops on average at least 10 feet shorter on wet roads.*

IF STOPPING DISTANCE IS, YOU KNOW, IMPORTANT TO YOU, THEN GO WITH THE COOPERS.

—Uncle Cooper
Uncle to Everyone

GO WITH THE COOPERS.

COOPER TIRES

*Wet stopping distance based on the results for the Discoverer AT3™ LT275/70R18 in comparative wet braking testing against four select competitor tires; April 2018. Individual on-road results may vary. © Cooper Tire & Rubber Company. All rights reserved.

**SPRUCE PINE
TIRE SERVICE**

828.765.2186

Oak Ave. Spruce Pine, NC
HOURS: 7AM-5PM • MON-FRI

BELGARD
PAVES THE WAY

Wake up to a world of breathtaking possibilities. Come see how Belgard paves the way to your own personal sanctuary at Summit Building Supply.

SUMMIT BUILDING SUPPLY
252 Possum Trot Road | Burnsville, NC 28714
828-682-9841 | summitbuildingsupply.com

The NCBAM HOPE LINE -
“for such a time as this”

By Whitney Brooks

If you've spent time around the NCBAM team, you've surely heard us say, "It's a God thing." It's practically our unofficial slogan, and for good reason. God has shown over and over that he's always a step ahead: positioning the ministry to respond to the needs of aging adults. Along those lines, "It's a God thing" is the only way to describe the timing of the One Hope outreach that provides a spiritual response to social isolation and loneliness among older North Carolinians. The NCBAM HOPE LINE, a toll-free "warm" line for callers experiencing isolation and loneliness, opened in June of 2019. Staff and volunteers were fully trained and experienced when just over the course of a few days in mid-March, calls to the Hope Line exponentially increased. When we begin planning One Hope in 2018, none of us could have imagined the events of March 2020. But God knew.

Demand for the Hope Line has continued to be great. We've added two lines and temporarily expanded hours to include weekends. The Hope Line (866.578.HOPE) is now available daily, 9:00 am - 9:00 pm. Hope Line staff and volunteers help create a sense of strength and grounding in times that feel uncertain. We are trained to skillfully listen and respond to callers. There is power and confirmation in being heard. It's not our job to diminish a caller's fear or ignore it. Rather, we acknowledge how they are feeling, knowing it can be incredibly comforting for callers to simply say these things out loud to someone who isn't judging or trying to convince them otherwise. Callers who express fear or anxiety have a safe outlet where they can be heard. They also have someone ready and willing to pray with and for them. If the mission of One Hope speaks to you, we invite you to join our outreach efforts as a volunteer. Our callers would love to hear your voice as you lend a compassionate ear in a time of need. Get in touch today!

Whitney Brooks, NBC-HWC and Healthy Aging Expert, works with individuals and groups as an integrative health coach. She developed and teaches the specialized training provided to NCBAM staff and Hope Line volunteers. Connect with Whitney at www.mswhitneybrooks.com.

65+? Lonely?
Need to talk?
NCBAM's Hope Line
is here for you!

866-578-4673

 NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST AGING MINISTRY





By Teresa Young
Mitchell County

Tri-County Christian School had just entered our final nine-week grading period of 2019-20, heading for a strong finish to a great year, when we, like all other educational institutions, hit an abrupt change in plans as we responded to the COVID-19 pandemic! Usually, school dismissals are times of excitement, including unexpected snow or weather-related cancellations, planned times of Thanksgiving, Christmas or spring/summer breaks and celebrations. Instead, this was a somber time, totally different from anything any of us have ever experienced before. Officials were forced to make quick and critical decisions to protect the health of our students, staff, and their families while finding ways to ensure that our students could finish this academic year successfully. I would personally like to thank our TCCS teachers for being so dedicated & adaptable as you continue to prepare & ensure our students make academic gains and continue on the path to finish strong through distance education! Thank you to our wonderful families who are helping to support both staff and students in carrying out the projected lesson plans during this time of quarantine! Thank you to our amazing secretary for ALL that you are and do! Thank you to our awesome volunteers! Thank you to all prayer warriors and financial supporters of TCCS! Thank you to all supporting churches and chapel speakers for sharing your gifts and talents, and a very special thanks to The Bridge Church for your ongoing support of this ministry since its inception! Thank you to those throughout the area who provide various enrichment that enables us to expand our educational and service opportunities! Thank you to those who serve and protect our wonderful community! Most of all, thanks be to "God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble." Psalm 46:1

Teresa Young is the Principal At Tri-County Christian School in Spruce Pine.





36 Chevrolet Boulevard • Spruce Pine, NC
SALES: 828-765-4234
SERVICE: 828-592-2636
www.sprucepinechevy.com

 <p>NEW 2020 GMC Regular Cab Chassis 4X4 DIESEL, HARD To Find Long Wheel Base, Allison 10 Speed Automatic!</p>	 <p>NEW 2020 Chevrolet 1500 LT Crew Cab 4X4 Z71 Off Road Pkg. Trailering Pkg. SAVE NOW!!</p>	 <p>2019 Ford F-350 Dually Crew Cab 4X4 15K miles, DIESEL... ONLY \$47,900!</p>	 <p>NEW 2019 GMC Acadia AWD SLE-1 Huge Savings and Special Rates TODAY!!</p>	 <p>Come drive the new Chevy 1500 3 Liter Turbo Diesel Crew Cab 4X4 - IN STOCK NOW!!</p>
 <p>SAVE Thousands - Pre-Owned 2020 Chevy Silverado LT 1500 4X4 Crew - Only \$39,900!</p>	 <p>Pre-Owned 2020 GMC Terrain SLT AWD 17K Miles...Buy NOW for ONLY \$29,900!</p>	 <p>2019 Ford F-250 Crew Cab 4X4 DIESEL 16K Miles, Buy TODAY for ONLY \$45,900!</p>	 <p>Pre-Owned Chevy Silverado LTZ 4X4 LOADED!! Awesome Deal at ONLY \$41,900!!</p>	 <p>2019 Ford F-150 XLT 4X4 SuperCrew 19K Miles. Extra Nice and ONLY \$31,900!!</p>
 <p>2019 GMC Acadia SLT-2 AWD. 12K Miles LIKE NEW - GREAT DEAL at just \$34,900!!</p>	 <p>2019 Ram 2500 Big Horn Crew Cab 4X4 10K Miles, Diesel, BELOW WHOLESALE \$46,900</p>	 <p>2003 Ford F-250 Extra Cab 4X4 DIESEL Won't Last Long at ONLY \$7,995!!</p>	 <p>2019 Nissan Rogue Sport AWD S Sporty! Great Payments at ONLY \$18,900!!</p>	 <p>2019 Toyota Rav4 XLE AWD. 34K Miles EXTRA NICE! \$26,900!</p>
 <p>2017 Cadillac XT5 Platinum AWD Beautiful Ride at ONLY \$32,900!</p>	 <p>2017 Toyota Sienna LE 8 Passenger LIKE NEW! Price to move at \$22,500!</p>	 <p>2016 Chevrolet Trax LTZ AWD. Only 20K Miles. LOADED! \$18,900</p>	 <p>2002 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited 4X4 Leather, Loaded...ONLY \$5,995!!</p>	

0% APR for
84 Months On
Select New
Vehicles

Crossword Solution

M	E	L	O	D	Y		C	O	W	S		S	P	Y
	L	I	M	E		J	A	I	R		W	A	R	E
M	I	N	A	S		O	B	L	I	G	A	T	E	S
O	S	T	R	I	C	H		S	T	A	R		S	
S	H	E		R	A	N			H	I	N	G	E	S
T	A	L	K	E	R		A	V	E	N		O	N	E
			E	S	T	A	T	E				S	E	C
S	L	A	Y			S	C	R	I	P		U	S	E
O	A	R	S			R	E	L	I	E	S	No.243		
R	U	E		T	H	E	E		P	L	A	C	E	S
E	N	D	U	R	E			L	E	E		A	X	E
	C		S	U	I	T		A	D	V	A	N	C	E
T	H	R	E	E	F	O	L	D		A	D	D	E	R
W	E	E	D		E	N	O	S		T	A	L	E	
O	D	D		B	R	E	D		R	E	M	E	D	Y

Sudoku Solution

5	3	6	8	4	1	7	2	9
1	4	9	7	2	3	5	6	8
2	8	7	6	9	5	3	1	4
9	5	3	2	1	4	8	7	6
7	6	2	3	5	8	4	9	1
8	1	4	9	7	6	2	5	3
3	7	8	1	6	2	9	4	5
4	9	1	5	8	7	6	3	2
6	2	5	4	3	9	1	8	7



CHOOSE BUBBA'S FOR ALL YOUR CATERING NEEDS



We are carry out only right now. Offering kids meals free for kids that need them.

- Churches
- Reunions
- Holidays
- Family Gatherings

828-678-3388 394 East Main St. Burnsville, NC

Retirement Resource Management

What Have We Learned From The Pandemic Of 2020?

By Steve Gaito
McDowell County



In three months, from January 1st to April 1st, the S&P 500 went down almost 25 percent. In the same period, the Federal Funds rate dropped from 1.55% to .05% and our National Debt is expected to expand to over 30 trillion dollars. This information looks alarming for our nation but what does it mean for you and your retirement? First and foremost, this event has significantly impacted your ability to produce income if you are expecting to live off either your investments or interest earnings. A second concern is a likely rise in taxes that will be implemented to pay for this additional national debt. As a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNERTM practitioner, I am trained to look at the impact on both personal and professional lives. This pandemic has caused the largest disruption to both jobs and businesses in my lifetime. The drop in the stock market and fixed interest accounts are only rivaled by what took place during the Great Depression. It is a reality that the future will look different, but what we learn from this event could shape our future into a better place.

On a positive note, during this pandemic, I have learned that people are generally good and caring. I have seen that nurses, doctors, schoolteachers, law enforcement officers, and public health officials are critical to our society. I have also realized that what many of us deem as essential is very different from what our government deems essential. And most importantly I have learned to appreciate faith, family, and friends more than ever before.

Looking back on my experiences in financial planning I recognize that in the 90's I was very involved in helping people save for retirement. I primarily worked with nonprofit organizations to implement their retirement plans. At that time, it was all about the efficient frontier (asset allocation) and how diversification could minimize the impact of market fluctuations. It was an interesting theory, but as I have seen several times since the 90's it is not perfect. If you can wait asset allocation works out in the long run. That is the key statement having the ability to wait. Today as people rely on their investments for income that may not be an option. As I moved into the early 2000's and more Baby Boomers were retiring, it was clear that there needed to be an alternative for pensions plans that were replaced by 401(k), 403(b), 457 and IRA plans. With the loss of pensions, there was a great need for guaranteed income that you could not outlive. This was the dawn of the Annuity era. This type of planning met the need for guaranteed income and was quickly adopted by most financial planning professionals. For the next 15 years, comprehensive retirement planning consisted of balancing your managed portfolio for growth and an annuity for guaranteed income. I have found that most advisors do a pretty good job of these two elements, but over the last 5 years, I have realized this is incomplete retirement planning. Complete planning involves tax-efficient planning. With so much money in these qualified plans (401(k)), there is a tax risk that few consider. If you look at your statement and you see that you have \$500,000 in your IRA, most think they have a half of a million dollars. If you try to access this money you will quickly see that you do not have \$500,000 but more like \$375,000 if you consider a total tax of 25% for state and federal taxes. By being strategic about how you access these funds can reduce the tax you will pay.

As I study the current situation I see that the United States started 2020 with 23 trillion in debt. With the implementation of the stimulus packages and the reduction of tax collection from closed businesses and unemployed workers, it is estimated that our debt will balloon to 30 trillion by the end of the year. Just look at the unemployment numbers and you can see this in real-time. The impact that 0% interest has on savings and fixed income investments complicates conservative investments. There is no place to get a safe return like we used to get from CDs and bank accounts. The market drop changed the 20-year average of the stock market from just over 6% return to about 4.5% return. This would give a 60/40 portfolio a blended average of 2.7% before taxes and fees. Consider fees in a portfolio of 1% and taxes of 25% and your after-tax net of fees return is 1.275%. Can you live off of this return? I am not providing this information in an attempt to frighten you but rather to make you look clearly at the situation and decide if this is what you want or expect from your retirement plan. You cannot control the market, but you can minimize your taxes.

There is also another very real concern and that is with a debt of 30 trillion dollars do you think taxes will rise or fall? I believe that they will rise, and they will not be limited to your tax brackets. We may see taxes rise in hidden ways. For those on Social Security, we could see all benefits taxed at 100% instead of 85%. We could see the elimination of deductions for our taxes. Finally, we could see our retirement savings taxed at a different rate than income tax rates. These are all risks associated with taxes that we can minimize through planning. So, my takeaway from this is that these are challenging times. Finding ways to minimize taxes and future taxes can offset some of the limited returns on portfolios. Now is the time to act as we can pay taxes on lower amounts and let them grow tax-free.

I wish everyone great health and invite you to schedule a time to talk with me about how I can help you with a complete retirement plan. Give me a call at 828-559-0299 or email me at steve@retireerm.com

Just let me know that you read this article in the Blue Ridge Christian News and I will run a tax analysis of your retirement plan at no cost.

Steven W Gaito is a certified financial planner, owner of Faith Based Health Care and Retirement Resource Management, National Speaker on the topic of Social Security optimization, quoted in national publications like Money Magazine, US News and World Reports and Fox Business. Loves to educate and teach on financial topics like taxation of retirement accounts, long term care, healthcare, and efficient savings plans for small businesses. Has provided financial planning for missionaries through the International Mission Board.

Clint's Chronicles on the Funny Farm

Dear friends,

Allow me, if you will, to begin with a bit of foreign language for you...Sus scrofa domesticus – A Vicious Beast! (If you don't know Latin, translate as PIG!). Shortly before moving to Harrell Hill I received a telephone call from my buddy Doug. He described a 'situation' in which he was leading his pod of hogs, or is it a herd? Maybe a wad, who cares -- it was a platoon of hogs. It seems they had wriggled out of their pen and run amok among the cattle. Neither cow nor pig enjoyed the whimsical frolicking! So Doug set out to save the day...his specialty in my opinion.

He took a bucket of pig food pellets, or whatever it's called, to lure los puercos (that's Spanish for pigs) down from the feed barn. As Doug was marching merrily along with de porcs (that's French for pigs) the daddy piggy – aka "Boris" – insisted on a snout full of pig pellets. Now Boris was a rather substantial creature who tipped the scale at 700+ pounds. So, had it been me, I would gladly have surrendered to Boris' extortion tactics...but not Farmer Doug; after all, you must show the animal who is in charge, right? So when my pal did not acquiesce to Sir Boris' demands, that monstrous hog chomped a rather sizable chunk of Sir Doug's backside!

For reasons only the Lord knows, Doug had called to tell me he'd wanted me there to help him move these cannibalistic maiale (that's Italian for pigs). Have you noticed my desire to teach you various linguistic skills! Whatever! I pondered why 'my friend' would subject me to such peril. But, as has happened many times over our quarter-century long friendship, Doug simply chuckled and said he looked forward to my arrival at the farm.

Fast forward 4 months, now it's July 2010; Doug and Barbara ask if I will "watch the farm" while they go visit one of their children. On the outside I exuded confidence and proclaimed that I would be honored to be "in charge" of Harrell Hill Farms if even for one day. However, deep down in the pit of my soul I was filled with terror and anticipation of what happens if _____ happens? Heck, I don't know what I'm even doing here much less how to handle a genuine farm crisis.

The morning began like most every summer morning in the mountains, cool breezes, the flutter of hummingbirds and butterflies. I went to church, praised God and visited my friends there. I felt that adrenaline rush of knowing that I had the farm to myself...a genuine Farmer Clint. After church I returned to the farmhouse relieved that the day was nearly done, Doug and Barbara would soon be home and I had averted disaster. I reclined on the sofa and drifted asleep.

Sometime later I was awakened by squeals and grunts the likes of which were unfamiliar to my city-slicker brain. Rubbing my eyes I peeked out the window -- when what to my wondering eyes should appear, pigs were everywhere. Digging, rooting, voracious varken (that's Dutch for pigs) were devouring Barbara's herb garden and flower bulbs. Oh no, it was "The Nightmare on Byrd Road!"

Quickly, tentatively, I charged into the front yard and tried to reason with the schwein (that's German for pigs) of the error of their ways. They continued to gnaw at the beautiful floral beds as if I were not present. I grabbed a tobacco stick, swung it with authority, bellowed in my best Farmer Clint voice...all the while praying, "Lord, please don't let these pigs eat me".

Miracle of miracles, a mere tap of the pole and that sweet piggy family ceased its demolition and looked at me. My confidence blossomed as one-by-one hog, sow, piglets fell into line and followed me down Byrd Road. At last I was a genuine badge carrying pig farmer. (Importantly, when I first sprang out the door to halt the carnage I had filled my pockets with tomatoes for insurance. I figured that if it 'went bad' I could hold them off with treats, imagining a slow death but at least they would have eaten something before turning on me!)

The relaxed stroll – Farmer Clint and his pig friends -- proceeded incident-free for nearly 300 yards, the sweet scent of honeysuckle wafting on a soft summer breeze (I think it was honeysuckle, perhaps it was kudzu...how was I supposed to know – I'm new to this. But the air was clear and fragrant!) I thought to myself, "Doug will be so proud of me for corralling these critters. At last I accomplished something on my own...NO PIG LEFT BEHIND, that's my motto. And, for once, Doug did not have to rescue me!"

Suddenly, without warning, the fat-back brigade sprinted in every direction. I was stunned, baffled, befuddled; my confidence and swagger gave way to fear, confusion and doubt. I knew this was Showtime and quickly bounded in pursuit...swinging my tobacco stick, speaking in a Darth Vader voice, chasing the slippery bacon bits toward the Aunt Mae barn.

Ya know what? I managed to corner all but one of the little rascals and 'drove' them into the pen like a pro (okay, they sort of went in by themselves but I was present). But one little piggy, this little piggy,...he was outa heah! He wriggled his pork chop self through the cabbage patch, pausing long enough to destroy a few of the choice tender heads; bolted through the thick Christmas tree field, where I followed and was scratched, bruised, fell on my face and nearly broke my leg. We were heading toward the meadow for a Farmer Clint vs. Porker faceoff!

As I exited the Christmas trees the speedy piggy stopped...sniffed the air, pawed the earth, and made that guttural sound from deep in his belly (and, by the way, pigs do not say OINK OINK but something far more threatening). In a flash he spun on his piggy hoofs and glared into my eyes (I later observed that one of the bait tomatoes had fallen from my pocket and somehow the little ham noticed!) Fifty yards into the briar/pig weed/Christmas tree maze I looked over my shoulder and observed the monster finishing the red tomato fruit.

His snack now history, the Son of Boris opined that perhaps Farmer Clint had more ripe tomatoes in his pockets and decided to investigate further. Scampering at the speed of light he charged, I ran like the wind. (Okay, with a fused right ankle I sort of hobbled along but at least I was in the lead).



Pig weed scarred my groin, ground hog caverns nearly severed my ankles, briars mauled my Farmer Clint face, and it was a race against certain death. I would not succumb to a man-eating piglet!

Huffing, puffing I was near cardiac arrest when it came to me...empty your pockets; give it up, all of it, and be saved! Slowing to a mere trot I strategically dropped the delicious morsels in my wake. The ferocious pork loin slid to a stop and inhaled my offerings. This pig was truly famished, leaving no evidence of the banquet. And then, THEN, after completing the feast he approached slowly – I bristled for battle, tobacco stick at the ready. I poised to strike my very best blow as he joyfully skipped around me, making a path toward the barn. It seems my satiated little ham-hock was now interested only in reuniting with his family. Cautiously I advanced in front of him, opened the gate, and gingerly coaxed him into the pen. Smiling up at me it was if he was saying, "This was my destination all along."

It was over...ended...terminado...finis. Pigs in place, Farmer Clint in charge.

King of the farm!

Predictably Doug and Barbara arrived home late afternoon. "Well, Pollard, how did everything go?" Doug asked. Filled with pride, my swagger intact, I replied, "No problem, Doug. I've got this thing well in hand. Running Harrell Hill Farms is a piece of cake."

Secretly, of course, I knew that once again the Lord had saved my bacon on the Funny Farm!

Farmer Clint




Catawba River

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

...partnering with churches to reach communities for Christ

Visit our Website at crbanc.org
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram





DT'S BLUE RIDGE JAVA

COFFEE SHOP & CAFE

Breakfast • Lunch

Deli Sandwiches
Hamburgers
Hot Dogs
Soup & Salad
Ice Cream
Pastries

828-766-8008
169 Locust St. (Lower St.)
Spruce Pine, NC
Daily: 7:00am - 5:00pm
Closed Sunday
Go to Church

Don't Forget Gift Cards!



WKYK

AM 940 • WKYK.COM

LISTEN: 11A.M.
EVERY SATURDAY
GOSPEL PREACHING

Brought To You By:
YANCEY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
Burnsville, North Carolina 28714

Witness of Scripture

By Glenda Ward
McDowell County



Believeth: To adhere to, committal to, faith in, reliance upon, trust in a person, and this involves not only the consent of the mind but an act of the heart and willingness of the person.

“Whosoever believeth in Him” is equivalent to whosoever trusts in or commits themselves to Christ. Belief is faith which consists of believing and receiving what God has revealed.

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.” Everlasting life is not only a future hope but the present possession of everyone who believes in Salvation through Christ Jesus.

The story of The Woman at the Well is a well-known story in the Bible; many Christians can easily summarize this story. On the surface, the story chronicles morality, preconceived ideas, and a woman who was avoided or shunned by her community. In Scripture, she is described as the Samaritan woman. She is not named but is identified by her nationality. But to take a deeper look, we realize it reveals a great deal about Jesus’ character. Jesus is a master teacher and He taught in a variety of ways. He spoke frequently to the multitudes, He also spent considerable time giving kindly attention to individuals in one-on-one situations. In this, we should follow His example.

Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well is told in the Book of John chapter 4. The Samaritans had once been Jews. They knew about the coming Messiah. They knew Jewish law. But they had intermarried with people of other faiths that had brought new gods into their land, and as a result, they knew that they would be excluded when the Messiah came.

The story falls into three major segments:

- Why the Lord happened to be passing through Samaria.
- The actual exchange between Jesus and the Samaritan woman.
- The effect that ultimately was produced as a result of this encounter.

The Lord’s travels were meticulously structured to enhance the greatest advantage for the success of His coming Kingdom. The timing was of importance, for everything must proceed on schedule to that most important hour. Jesus’ ministry had been very successful and because of His success, the Pharisees were beginning to focus on a more hostile interest in Him. So, Jesus redirected His labor from Judea in the south, to Galilee in the north. Samaria lies between Judea and Galilee, so passing through Samaria was not the only route and was not the most common one used. Samaria was not considered as belonging to the Holy Land. It was considered a strip of “foreign country” separating Judea from Galilee in which taking this route would take longer than the normal three days of travel. However, Jesus did not hesitate to trod the Samaritan territory. It is in His timing

that several happenings are in order.

Jesus and His disciples leave Judaea and go into Galilee passing into Samaria, coming to a city called Sychar which was near the parcel of land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now, Jesus on His journey came to Jacob’s well, and being tired from His travel sat down on the wall at the well at about the sixth hour while His disciples went into the village about a half-hour away, to buy food. [In His humanity Jesus experienced the same physical limitations that all humans experience.]

While Jesus is at the well a woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me to drink”. And knowing the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans, the woman asks Jesus why He asks for a drink from her, a woman of Samaria. Jesus answers this woman in John chapter 4 verse 10. Three things are significant about Jesus’ encounter with this Samaritan woman. First, she was a Samaritan and Jews had no dealings with Samaritans. Second, she was a woman and Jesus spoke to her despite the fact. Jewish men did not speak to women in public. Third, Jesus asked for her to get Him a drink of water, although using her cup or dipper would have made Him ceremonially unclean. The most common view to the origin of the Samaritans is they were of a mixed-race who developed as a result of intermarriages and other pagans who eventually infiltrated the land mingling with them. There was much animosity between Jews and the Samaritans. Given her heritage, this Samaritan woman was not a stranger to Jewish teachings, which said that there would be a Messiah who would come and save His people. But she was not a Jew, and so salvation would not be coming for to. At least, that is what she thought until that day when Jesus spoke to her.

Jesus told her of all the things going on in her life. Jesus’ behavior was shocking to this woman at the well. The stranger had exposed details of her life He could not possibly have known naturally. This woman began to realize this man was not like other Jewish men. How did He know so much about her? In John chapter 4 verse 13 and 14 Jesus goes on to tell her about the living water and everlasting life. Jesus spoke of the “free gift” of “living water” that bestows life such that she would never thirst again. Jesus used the word living water to refer to eternal life, the gift that would satisfy her soul’s desire was only available through Him. As the woman began to grasp the reality of her encounter with Jesus, she makes a statement in John chapter 4 verse 25. Jesus says unto her, “I that speak unto thee am He”. “The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?” The woman’s testimony to the citizens of the community was compelling. She claimed to have met a man “who told her of all things that ever she did”. This was a strong suggestion of Jesus’s supernatural nature. Her careful choice of words produced the exact response for which she hoped. The people of Sychar departed from the city and made their way to find Jesus.

From verse thirty-five we can figure that it is December or January on the occasion of His journey (since the harvest occurs in April-May). Jesus says to his disciples, you are saying, “There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest?” “I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, (perhaps beckoning toward a multitude of people approaching down the road; the human crop, who, even now, are ripe for harvest.”), and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”

Many of the Samaritans believed in Him for the saying of the woman which testified. The Samaritans came to Him, they besought Him that He would stay with them two more days. Jesus stayed two more days in Sychar teaching the people of the community. The outcast Samaritans recognized Him and accepted Him for who he truly was, the Lord and Savior.

What took place that day has everything to do with timing. Most women didn’t go to draw water in the heat of the day. They usually went in the morning when it was cool. But this woman went out in the middle of the day when she perhaps expected no one else to be there, and that is exactly when Jesus met her. At the beginning of time, God already knew the outcome, and as she went to the well in the middle of her ordinary day, perhaps He smiled, thinking, I have been waiting for you! He must have been filled with joy knowing that she was about to discover the only One who could satisfy her heart and give her True Hope. He was just sitting on the wall of the well, waiting ...at the exact place she would be ...at the exact time she would be there ...just to have an encounter with her. Today we can know that He does the same for us. He sees us coming. He knows everything about us, and He loves us just as we are. Sometimes, the busyness of our day keeps us from looking for Him, but He is waiting for us. And when you encounter Jesus, your heart will learn the gentleness of His voice, and it will be impossible to miss His presence again. He positions Himself in our life so we can meet Him face to face just when we need Him the most. He is with us always.

PROUDLY SPONSORED by **EBH Homes**

2ND ANNUAL
BURNSVILLE, NC

SPRING HOME & GARDEN

SHOW
2020

REMODEL - REPURPOSE - RELOCATE

MAY 16th 10am-6pm

MAY 17th 12pm-5pm

Burnsville Town Center

Innovative Home Design - Lawn and Garden Equipment

Home Improvement - Outdoor Living - Food - Door Prizes

\$5 advance tickets, \$7 at the door For more info call 828-398-5943

blueridgespringhomeshow.com

Glenda Ward is a member of Grand View Baptist Church in McDowell County. She is the mother of five grown children. Glenda is a Christian writer/author of “Something to Think About” – weekly Christian Articles. She writes Church Programs & Bulletins, VBS Material, Christmas and Easter Programs; all material based on the KJV of the Bible. Also testing the field in tributes, individual memorial writings, etc.

Next Best Thing to Family,

Mitchell County

Transportation

828-688-4715

Where we treat you like family

Marlene’s Meditations

Trusting Over Reasoning

by Marlene Houk
Burke County



My twelve-year-old daughter showed me her sewing project. I tilted my head and tried to see the familiar shape of a pair of pants, but it wasn’t working. Instead of sewing the back and front inside legs together, she had sewn the two back legs together and repeated this with the two front legs. When she sewed the important inseam, the outside seams of the legs were on the inside, and the pants were upside down! Now, a cute little curve jutted out from each side, and the pockets fluttered at ankle-length. My daughter thought that, since the pieces were cut together, they should be sewn together. We both laughed with abandon, realizing that her reasoning was off.

My daughter’s experience reminds me of Naomi’s story in the Bible, located in the book of Ruth. Ruth was Naomi’s daughter-in-law, dedicated and kind. She had accepted Naomi’s Jehovah God and moved with her back to Naomi’s hometown of Bethlehem. Their physical journey becomes the door which opens upon several spiritual journeys that occur in this story.

For example, Naomi travels from human reasoning to trusting the LORD, and her adventure transports her from despair to delight. In chapter one, Naomi’s reasoning rests on her own ability to fix Ruth’s and Orpah’s dilemma and find her two widowed daughters-in-law husbands. At the end of the chapter, she declares that the LORD sent her out full, and she has returned empty, assuming that if she’s hurting, God hates her. Her humanness craved an answer to her sorrow above God’s Word. And, today, we seek immediate solutions within our reasoning when, instead, God offers an immeasurable future of divine delight. Naomi looked at life through her physical senses. She was unable to look beyond her circumstances and trust her Redeemer to banish bitterness.

However, Naomi changes in chapter two. She admits that someone other than herself has provided for them. In stark contrast to chapter one, she focuses on someone other than herself: Boaz. And in Ruth 2:19-20, she recognized the LORD’s part in relieving their poverty.

In chapter three, Naomi trusted that the LORD who provided their food would also provide a permanent solution. She could not force Boaz to accept Ruth’s request to redeem them; she could only do what she told Ruth to do in verse 18: sit still.

Chapter four tells the result of her refocus from reasoning to trust. Naomi was willing to journey in her trust, and her faulty conclusions faded into the distance. Human thinking hinders holy trust. But trusting the LORD brought Naomi fruitfulness in the form of a sweet grandson and healing purpose to her pain. We can trace Naomi’s journey from reasoning to trusting with the simple repetition of her name for her God.

Naomi grieved deeply the loss of her husband and sons, and she was justifiably filled with despair. But she continues to call Him, LORD (six times). LORD includes the idea of God seeking a relationship with His people. Naomi embraces this when she addresses Him as LORD whether in the anguish of heart (Ruth 1:13) or thankfulness (Ruth 2:20). She opens her wounded heart, showing her relationship with her God by calling Him, LORD. Naomi hadn’t deserted her LORD; she simply couldn’t see beyond her grief which is a normal reaction. But, through the cracks in her heart, the LORD shines through to us.

Naomi’s instructions to Ruth revealed her heart and documented her own journey from reasoning to trusting. What template did Naomi share that would help us turn from reasoning to trusting?

She told Ruth in Chapter 3, verse 18 to “sit still my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.” As if to underscore her instructions, neither Ruth nor Naomi speak for the remainder of the book.

The rest that Naomi sought for Ruth becomes the spiritual rest that our souls crave. Hebrews 4:9 tells us that, as Christians, we already have the spiritual rest we need so desperately because Our Redeemer declared that His sacrifice was finished. Boaz reminds us of Christ in that he also finished Ruth’s and Naomi’s redemption process, allowing them to rest. We can enjoy the rest that we have in Christ, relaxing in His plan for us. We know that we trust God when we stop depending upon ourselves to solve our problem. We still go. We still work. But we leave the reasoning to our Redeemer.

My daughter continued to sew, but she has also learned to follow directions carefully, seeking help if uncertain. And that is key to a life of faith: subjecting our reasoning to the sweet trust we find in the LORD as He gives us directions from His Word.

Marlene Houk is a regular contributor to Blue Ridge Christian News. Her passion is to delve deeply into the truths of Bible women and to discuss those in Bible Studies called Backstage Pass to Bible Women. She and her husband discover joy, nurture, and challenge in their church. Her contact is marlenehouk@bellsouth.net Learn more about women in the Bible at Marlene's website: www.MarleneHouk.com



Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

Griffith's General Store

“A Little Out Of The Way, But ALOT Less to Pay”

THE POWER YOU NEED

RedMax

- Fertilizer
- Chemical
- Garden Seed
- Red Max weedeaters
- Grass Seed
- Sprayers
- Fence Supplies
- Drain Tile
- Pet Supplies

Ph: (828) 688-2369
Fax: (828) 688-5479

Tipton Hill, NC
4301 NC 197 North
Green Mountain, NC 28740

Jerry & David Griffith
davidgriffith58@frontier.com
griffith25@frontier.com

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 1 John 4:4

HVAC MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

WHY ENROLL IN OUR MAINTENANCE PROGRAM?

- ★ PREVENT COSTLY REPAIRS AND BREAKDOWNS
- ★ CORRECTION OF DEVELOPING PROBLEMS
- ★ LONGER EQUIPMENT LIFESPAN
- ★ SAVE 10% ON REPAIR PARTS
- ★ FRONT OF THE LINE SERVICE
- ★ REDUCE ENERGY USE

141 HIGHLAND AVE
SPRUCE PINE, NC 28777
828-765-4042
BURLESONPLUMBING@GMAIL.COM
BURLESONPLUMBING.COM

STARTING AS LOW AS \$129 OR \$12 MONTHLY

Burleson
Plumbing & Heating



SEE HIM IN THE BEAUTY. HEAR HIM IN HIS WORD.

Get away to The Cove in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of Asheville and experience life-changing seminars led by renowned Bible teachers. Or plan a self-directed or staff-guided Personal Spiritual Retreat and privately focus on God in the serenity of our 1,200 secluded acres. All seminars are free of charge in 2020. (Material, food, and lodging fees apply.)
FOR DETAILS, VISIT THECOVE.ORG OR CALL 828-771-4800.

“Hear what the Spirit says.”

—REVELATION 3:22, NKJV



Habits of the Heart: A Study of the Spiritual Disciplines“Simplicity”

By Dr. Jack R. Hodges, Jr.
Burke County



In my previous articles, I wrote about four” Inward” Habits of the Heart or spiritual disciplines that we must pursue in our faith journey to maturity in Christ. As we choose to spiritually discipline ourselves, the Holy Spirit then transforms us into the image of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Those first four inward habits, Meditation, Prayer, Fasting, and Study are the first four of what has been identified as twelve fundamental spiritual disciplines for the believer. Over the next four months, look with me at the next four “Outward” Spiritual Disciplines that must be practiced in order for God to continue to mold us into the image of His Son. The practice of the outward disciplines is evidence of a maturing relationship with Christ. By faith, we have been reconciled to a new relationship with Christ. But it is only as we mature in Christ will we trade in the worldly trappings of living for self and commit ourselves to live for Christ. As we live for Christ, we take on the character of Christ, allowing the Holy Spirit to produce the Fruit of the Spirit, and only then will we choose to live lives of Simplicity, Solitude, Submission, and Service.

The first outward discipline is “Simplicity.” It is indeed timely that a discussion of simplicity comes up at this particular time when governmental restrictions surrounding the threat of the coronavirus pandemic have become stricter and tighter; and a time when access to goods and services has been diminished and curtailed. The state-wide “stay at home” order mandates that we submit to social distancing guidelines in order to stop the rapid spread of this pandemic. Most of our churches have complied, taking seriously our scriptural responsibility to “submit to higher authorities.” While serious threats to our religious freedoms can be seen around the U.S., I am thankful that we live in a country where the freedom to worship is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. As Christians celebrated Easter some weeks ago, albeit, in unique and challenging ways that we have never faced before here in America, the resurrection of Christ reminded us that we are truly free—made spiritually and eternally free by the shed blood of Christ.

Richard Foster (Celebration of Discipline, Harper & Row) describes the Spiritual Discipline of Simplicity as “an inward reality that results in an outward lifestyle.” Lifestyle choices are very personal, and most are very private. Most, if not all, of our choices, are conditioned responses to what we have learned; what we have understood to be true; or what we think that we need in order to survive. So, along with an American culture that has put an extreme value on the rights of individuals, it certainly seems that the average American has become more and more selfish. That sadly includes Christians. Our culture bombards us with powerful messages (e.g., more is better; luxury gives joy and/or happiness; money provides security; entertainment provides rest; etc.). That trap has lured us into the pursuit of more and more things. We have become selfish and self-centered—and in becoming selfish, our hearts are torn away from pursuing a simple life and walk of faith with Christ Jesus.

The Spiritual Discipline of Simplicity is God’s answer to selfish humanity—and it is His demand of us who choose to live for Him and for His glory. Foster further defines simplicity as “the discipline of freeing ourselves from unnecessary excess and self-gratifying luxury.” Isolated and removed from material things during this pandemic has forced all the world’s citizens into simpler lives and lifestyle choices. That may be painful, but it may also function to force us to refocus our hearts and minds upon what is important to God and what is essential to living for Him.

The Bible has a lot to say about riches and as the Word of God deals with the subject of riches, the focal point always has to do with the inner spirit of slavery or idolatry that wealth seems to bring. The Psalmist declared (Ps. 62:10b), “... **If riches increase, do not set your heart upon them.**” Jesus dealt extensively with the subject of wealth and money. He said (Mark 4:19), “*but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.*” And He warned of living our life driven by riches and pleasures (Luke 8:14), “*The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.*” He warned in Luke 16:13, “*No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.*” (Note: “mammon” was the Aramaic expression for money or wealth). He commanded His followers (Matt. 6:19-21), “*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*” To the rich young ruler, Jesus advised for him not only to give up any inward attachment to the possession, but also to get rid of his possessions if he wanted to attain the Kingdom of God (Matt. 19:16-22). Jesus counseled all people who came seeking God to (Lk. 12:33-34), “*Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*”

What was Jesus saying about wealth and possessions? As Foster wonderfully points out, “He called all who would follow Him to a joyful life of carefree unconcern for possessions.” In Jesus’ own words, He said, “*Give to everyone who begs from you; and of him who takes away your goods, do not ask them again.*” (Lk. 6:30)

Paul joined in on the same concerns. As he wrote to the churches and counseled the new leaders (i.e., Bishops, pastors, deacons, etc.), Paul declared that a Bishop should not be a “*lover of money*” (1 Tim. 3:3) and a deacon must not be “*greedy for gain*” (1 Tim. 3:8). To the Hebrew church, Paul wrote (Heb. 13:5), “*Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you*

have; for He, Himself has said, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.””

On the other hand, the Bible does not advocate that God’s people are to live in misery and poverty. All of the earth and all that is in it belongs to the Lord, and He desires to make available to His children all that they need. In other words, adequate material provisions are always made available by God to His children. Forced poverty or “asceticism” (the doctrine that a person can attain a high spiritual and moral state by practicing self-denial, self-mortification, and the like) is sinful and evil and is not a part of God’s plan for His people.

Simplicity is not “doing without.” It is not living in a pigsty. It is not living an unhealthy life, not refusing to eat healthily, nor failing to keep our “tabernacles” in good shape. I like how Foster says it, “Simplicity is the only thing that can sufficiently reorient our lives so that possessions can be genuinely enjoyed without destroying us.”

Jesus makes it absolutely clear what the focus of our lives should and must be as we follow Him—seeking the Kingdom of God (cf. Matt. 6:25-33).

We practice the spiritual discipline of simplicity as we choose to seek after the kingdom of God. Admittedly, this is a difficult discipline to grasp as we live in a culture of self and want. Yet God calls His children of faith to “*seek ye first the kingdom of God.*” Simplicity is about making sure that the stuff in our lives is not allowed to either pile up and become overwhelming or to become idols. May I suggest that when they do overwhelm us or become our idols, then we will begin to both feel and carry anxiety as an indication of our bondage.

Finally, let me pass along some deep wisdom from Richard Foster, who shares that when God’s people are living in freedom from anxiety, then three inner attitudes will be present: (1) If what we have we receive as a gift, and (2) if what we have is to be cared for by God, and (3) if what we have is available to others; then we will possess freedom from anxiety. This is, perhaps, one of the greatest descriptions of the inward reality of simplicity. To know that all that we have is from God is freeing. To know that it is God’s business to care for all that we have is freeing. To know that all of our goods are available to others is freeing. The adverse is, as Foster warns, “If what we have we believe we have gotten, and if what we have we believe we must hold onto, and if what we have is not available to others, then we will live in anxiety.”

God’s children are called to practice the Spiritual Discipline of Simplicity. It is an inward reality that results in an outward lifestyle.” A child of God lives an outward lifestyle of simplicity when he/she makes choices out of freedom, grace, mercy, love, and a commitment to seek first God’s kingdom (His eternal plans and purposes). And that, my brothers, and sisters in Christ, produces peace in a time of fear, trouble, and difficulty. May the peace of God be with you all.

Dr. Jack R.Hodges, Jr. is the Senior Pastor at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Morganton, Burke County. He has served as a pastor, a biblical counselor and a International Mission Board missionary.

Home sweet home

Protect all that you’ve built with a company you can trust.

"Serving Customers Since 1919"

FORTNER
INSURANCE AGENCY

LIKE US ON
facebook

www.fortnerinsurance.com

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

By John McCoury
Roan Mountain, Tennessee



AS we read in (GALATIANS 6:9): “*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not It garden time again.*” If you have ever attempted to grow a garden from seeds, then you have probably learned a few lessons as my first attempted garden from seeds. The spiritual parallels that God has interwoven into creation are truly phenomenal, and I learned a lot of through that little garden. The first lesson I learned is that a garden that produces fruit mid-summer is the result of a daily process that begins during the frost of winter. When spending a week or two watering pots of dirt indoors that have no sign of life above ground, you begin to have a tiny “crisis of faith,” wondering if your daily efforts are completely in vain. Then the first signs of green life nudge their way through the soil, and a twinkle of hope is born. But the garden is still a long way from bearing fruit at that point. Attention to the fragile seedlings must be deliberate and consistent each day after those first signs of life appear to nurture the sprouts into plants that will be ready to brave the outdoors after the last frost. What a picture of our spiritual needs! The watering of our souls through God’s Word and the exposure to the Son daily are key ingredients to growing roots fit for our thriving in this world. I spent weeks watering those tiny plants after finally getting them outdoors. I began this phase hopeful, but as the changes in the garden took place at a less-than-visible pace, I felt myself growing less enthusiastic about the process. Such is life, right? One morning a string of tough moments occurred as a wife and mom doubted whether any of my efforts would one day bear fruit. It was then that the Holy Spirit intervened in my thoughts through Galatians 6:9: “*Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don’t give up.*” During the times when we are not visually able to see the fruit of our labor, let us be encouraged that our job is to keep showing up, knowing the results are in God’s hands. Father, You have promised that if I will sow seeds of goodness through the power of Your Spirit at work within me, I will reap a harvest of blessing in due time. Help me to hold on to that promise in the waiting. Harvesting! Cor. (5–9). Everybody has a place in the Lord’s harvest, and all are doing His work (John 4:34–38). There must be no competing or comparing, for the Lord alone recognizes the work and gives the reward. It makes no difference who the servant is so long as Jesus Christ is Lord of the harvest. When you give to others whose ministry blesses you, you are sowing seed that will bear fruit. When you use your resources for sinful purposes, you sow to the flesh and will reap a sad harvest. In conclusion Isaiah 55:10-13 “*For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.*” Here are some suggestions for fifteen rows worth planting: Four rows of peas: Preparedness Perseverance Promptness Politeness, then three rows of squash: Squash gossip, Squash criticism, Squash selfishness: along with five rows of lettuce: Let us be unselfish, Let us be loyal, Let us love one another, Let us be truthful, Let us be faithful in duty. And three rows of turnips: Turn up with a smile, Turn up with a new idea, and Turn up with determination. And then? Water, weed, tend with care, and patiently watch the garden grow.

John McCoury is pastor of Evergreen church in Roan Mountain, Tennessee and also chaplain at Roan Highlands Nursing Center.

BARRY WILSON ARCHITECTURE

(828) 537-0015

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN FOR CHURCHES
AND THEIR MINISTRIES

Whether your church is large or small, urban or rural, whether you are building your first facility or expanding an historical sanctuary, Barry Wilson Architecture has the expertise and the experience you need.

MEETING YOUR BUDGET, SUPPORTING YOUR MINISTRIES,
GLORIFYING GOD

At Barry Wilson Architecture, your budget, your ministries, and the glory of God take first priority. We seek to direct each church design project so that the construction is completed within the church’s budget, the building supports the needs, ministries, and activities of the congregation, and the beauty of the church design brings honor and glory to God.

FREE ON-SITE CHURCH DESIGN CONSULTATION

When the time comes for your ministry to expand and you begin the process to choose the architect who will become a part of that work, we would welcome the opportunity to visit your ministry and discuss your future church design needs. The church design consultation is completely free, and we will spend time providing practical advice and making specific suggestions to help you determine the best direction for expansion.

TIMELESSWAY.COM

Barry Wilson Architecture

P.O. Box 69 Green Mountain, NC 28740

Arch. Reg. NC 14310 FL AR0014153 GA 9222



Decorate your home with poly furniture that will last a lifetime.
Many styles and color options to choose from. All on sale now!



Peoples
FURNITURE COMPANY

274 OAK AVENUE • SPRUCE PINE, NORTH CAROLINA 287
PHONE (828) 765-5557 • FAX (828) 765-5558
www.peoples-furniture.com

Scott W. Murphy, D.M.D., P.A General Dentistry for the Family



We Love To See You Smile!

Always Accepting New Patients • Insurance Filed For You

Monday - Thursday 8-5

Friday 8-2

(828) 433-1223

341 East Parker Road, Morganton, NC 28655



Something to Think About -
“Honey out of the Rock”

By Dennis Love
McDowell County

Psalm 81:16

In this verse, we have one of the greatest promises God has ever given to His people. The promise is simply that out of the hard experiences of life, God will bring us some sweetness. This verse says that He will satisfy us with “Honey out of the Rock” experiences of this life. For more than a month we have been faced with many “rock experiences.” I have never preached to an empty church before. I have never been told that I could not go see a church member in the hospital before. I have never been told that I could not enter a nursing facility and pray with residents in that facility. I have never been told to stay at home before. I have never been told that we could not assemble together as a church family before. This is what most of us would call “rock experiences.” It is what most of us would refer to as hard places in our lives.

But the promise here is God will give us honey out of these hard places in our lives. Here’s what God is saying, “*You’re going to have some hard places in your life. There’s going to be times that we all encounter some rocks in life, but don’t get disheartened and discouraged, because you will experience some sweetness out of those hard places in your life.*” I really believe our best days as the church is right now before us. I really believe your best days as a believer is right now before you. I really believe our best days as a nation is right now before us. God has already brought some sweetness from Covid-19, and He will continue to do so because that’s the promise we have here in Psalm 81:16. None of us enjoy the “rock experiences” of life, but we sure do need them! If you will take a moment and look back on your life, you will see that some of the sweetest experiences of life have come from the rocks or the hard places of life. That was true of Joseph. For thirteen years he had nothing but ROCKS in his life. He was hated by his brothers---ROCKS. He was sold as a slave into Egypt---ROCKS. He was thrown into prison---ROCKS. But when it was all over, Joseph discovered honey from the rocks. It was those rock experiences that elevated him to be second in charge of Egypt. Joseph experienced honey from the rock.

This was also true of Jesus. If anybody knew about rock experiences, it was our Lord Himself. Have you ever thought about all the rocks Jesus faced when He walked among us? He was born into a poor family---ROCKS. He was despised and rejected by men---ROCKS. When He did good, somebody tried to turn it into evil---ROCKS. They spit upon Him---ROCKS. They mocked and ridiculed Him---ROCKS. They gave Him vinegar to drink---ROCKS. They took Him to a rock hill called Golgotha---ROCKS. They took His body and placed it in a tomb---ROCKS. They then rolled a rock stone in front of that tomb---ROCKS. His dead and lifeless body laid for three days in that rock tomb---ROCKS. But early on the third day, up from the dead He rose and from a rock tomb called Calvary flows for you and me today the sweet honey of salvation and the sweet honey of eternal life in a wonderful place called heaven where Covid-19 will never enter that city. Now that is something for us all to think about!

Dr Dennis Love is the Senior Pastor at Glenwood Baptist Church in Marion, NC. He and his wife Vicki have been married for 39 years and they have been in Marion for five years. They have two sons and three grandchildren.



Tree Of Life

By Patricia Jackson
McDowell County

After a short walk on Sunday afternoon, I settled on the front porch to enjoy the mountain views. In this time of quietness, I began to single out the many colors of green, contrasting sharply with the Blue Ridge mountain background. Dark forest green stood up next to the mountains. Further down, a large field of dark green pine trees and other varying shades of green. Our yard contained several shades of green grass and some weeds. Then I noticed the large oak tree. I wondered how many branches and leaves were on this one tree. I reflected on how God knows every tree, branch, and leaf, as well as the squirrels that hide nuts in the base, and the birds who live there.

The large oak tree in my yard is an ordinary tree, but God made “every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food” in the Garden of Eden to sustain Adam and Eve. The Tree of Life was in the midst of the garden. They would be nourished and live forever but they failed God and ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Sin had corrupted God’s perfect creation. But God has a plan to return it to its original state of perfection where sin is abolished forever.

Revelation 22:2 mentions the Tree of Life again. John tells us “*And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the Tree of Life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*” But not everyone will be there. Revelation 2:7 tells us to him that overcometh will I give to eat of the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. The overcomer will not be hurt by the second death. (Rev. 2:11) and will sit with Jesus on his throne Rev. 3:21. When we overcome sin in our life, we are proving God’s way is perfect and we will enjoy the rewards of Heaven. I may be physically looking at a large oak tree, but it’s nothing compared to the Tree of Life we will see when we overcome.

Patricia Jackson is the Assistant Teacher for the Ladies Class at Redeemed Free Will Baptist Church, Glenwood, NC. She is a grant writer for non-profits, a published author and retired Nursing Home Administrator. She lives in Rutherford County with her husband. Contact information: email address: wyo2go@bellsouth.net.



Check out our Website-www.brcnews.com
And find us on Facebook

See Us on Facebook

McClure Construction

GRAVEL YARD.



Dyed Red Mulch
Pine and Hardwood Mulch
Top Soil
Now Offering Wood-waste
Recycling Stumps, Limbs, Brush
Call for Dump Fees



Delivery Available

12715 Hwy 226 S., Spruce Pine
(828) 766-6169



Decorative Gravel
Washed Stone
Sand
Commercial Gravel
Public Welcome

Dogwood Health Trust, Cultivated Cocktails, Southeastern Container Inc. Partner to Produce and Bottle Hand Sanitizer

Asheville, N.C. (March 31, 2020) – The Board of Directors for Dogwood Health Trust recently approved the allocation of \$10 million to address COVID-19 needs throughout the 18 counties and Qualla boundary region of Western North Carolina. The funds are to support the goal of “flattening the curve” in the COVID-19 epidemic here locally. Efforts are focused on supporting both the increased access to testing and advocating for social distancing measures; mitigating negative social impacts like food insecurity or educational disparities as well as shoring up regional healthcare resources by investing in the production of additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and hygiene supplies for healthcare workers.

Dogwood is partnering with Asheville-based Cultivated Cocktails (formerly H&H Distillery) and Southeastern Container Inc. in Buncombe County to produce and bottle hand sanitizer. Cultivated Cocktails is one of a few distilleries trying to curb the shortage of hygiene products by using the ethanol produced for whiskey and converting it to battle bacteria. “We began our mission with our Sanitizer Donation program to provide as much sanitizer as possible to our region with no charge,” said Taylor Howard, Founder/Owner, Cultivated Cocktails. “Partnering with Dogwood makes that possible, potentially helping thousands during this pandemic.”

Southeastern joined the collaborative effort by offering to create bottles for the solution, which will be divided between health care professionals, first responders, and nonprofits who are at the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the general public. “Partnering with Dogwood was truly the right thing to do,” said Doug Wehrkamp, President and COO, Southeastern Container Inc. “We are glad to help and truly hope we can do our part to help combat this horrible virus as quickly as possible.”

“As was the case with Kitsbow and others who have stepped up to meet a growing need in our region, Cultivated Cocktails (H&H Distillery) and Southeastern saw that need and responded,” said Antony Chiang, CEO for Dogwood Health Trust. “We’re happy to be able to fuel some of this momentum with investments and collaborative partnerships like this one. Not only are these innovative partnerships working on multiple levels to save lives, they are that ‘win, win, win’ that Dogwood is looking for that benefits local companies, employees, and our community.”

Dogwood continues to look for opportunities where the Trusts’ engagement will catalyze the capacity to do more where needed, and where the coordinated effort will ensure an equitable and wise distribution of resources to multiple sectors and geographic areas throughout the region. Innovative partners are encouraged to reach out to Dogwood via their website or by emailing covid@dogwoodhealth-trust.org.

Dogwood Health Trust is a North Carolina nonprofit corporation with the sole purpose of dramatically improving the health and well-being of all people and communities of Western North Carolina. Dogwood Health Trust became operational upon the sale of Mission Health’s assets to HCA Healthcare and is the recipient of the net proceeds of the sale. To learn more, please visit www.dht.org.



BEAR CREEK BAPTIST
CHURCH

Welcomes You to

Celebrate Recovery

Thursdays at 7:00pm

Hope & Help from

Addiction Through Christ

PartsCity
AUTO PARTS

John Briggs & Benny Briggs • Owner

B & J Auto Parts

140 Hwy 226 N. • Bakersville, NC 28705

(828)688-2137 or (828)688-2138

Store Hours: Mon - Fri: 7 AM - 5:30 PM, Sat: 7 AM - 12 PM, Sun: Closed

Visit us online at PartsCityAuto.com

Est. 1971

**Bantam
Chef**

Drive - Thru

1116 Rutherford Road • Marion, NC 28752

(828) 652-7023

Open Monday - Saturday

6:30 - 11am Breakfast

11am - 9pm Lunch & Dinner

(Winter Hours - Close at 8:30pm)

Since 1971, Serving Marion

and the Surrounding Communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!!

Bantam Chef proudly practices and promotes

recycling for a cleaner community

and a greener environment.



Ask about our ongoing *recycling* program
and how you can participate in our contributions
to *Hospice of McDowell County*.



We serve

SOFT ICE CREAM

Cones • Shakes • Sundaes

Floats & Boats



*John's
Precision Auto Body*



1385 Rutherford Road
Marion, NC 28752

(828) 652-2018
Fax (828) 652-4896

**Call the agents who call
North Carolina home.**

Helping you is what we do best.

**FARM
BUREAU
INSURANCE**

828-652-4525

McDowell County Farm Bureau

21 Buncombe St

Marion, N.C., NC 28752

An Authorized Agency for



Auto • Home • Life • Health • Bank

*North Carolina Farm Bureau is a Mutual Insurance Company. Farm Bureau is Insurance of North Carolina, Inc. Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, Jackson, MS. An Independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Mine Creek Baptist Church

Remember When?

By Chris Rathbone
Mitchell County

One of the things that my family loves to do when we have the opportunity to get together is reminiscing about days gone by. Too often we let the memories go that played a major part in shaping us into the adults we are today. Hopefully, some experiences helped to teach us lessons along life's way. And sometimes some memories just make us smile and laugh about mishaps or funny experiences we lived through. I realize that many may not have too many good memories from years gone by, but one thing for sure, we can make good use of the years ahead that the good Lord gives us to make some good ones! Too many times we won't let go of bad experiences from the past so we can move on to good experiences in our future.

The little community I grew up in is called Estatoe. Years ago, most everyone knew everyone else. Even if you did not know someone personally, you pretty much knew who lived in each house up every creek and "holler". We lived so close to Crabtree community we knew most everyone there too. As a kid, summers seemed to last longer, and the heat didn't seem to bother us so badly. It was nothing for us to stay outside all day long except to come in for a quick bite to eat and we were off and running again. We played in creeks, explored the laurel thickets, climbed up rock cliffs, rode bicycles everywhere we could, built forts, ran on gravel barefoot, scurried up every tree we could climb, fished, hunted squirrels and rabbits, tied June bugs on a string (bet you hadn't heard of that one), caught "lightning" bugs, searched for night crawlers with a flashlight, made slingshots from a forked stick, shot basketball through an old bicycle rim, picked blackberries and put them in a milk jug, swung on wild grapevines, watched cartoons just on Saturday mornings, drank from the same creeks we played in, got into a few fistfights (and no one called the law,) threw rocks at each other for fun, listened to music on 1470 WTOE am station, played in the dirt till we had what Mama called a "rusty necklace" around our neck, walked up to Crabtree Chapel Baptist Church to play softball on the field above the church, flirted with the girls we thought were "purty", etc, etc, etc. Whew, I'm bout wore out just writing about it. But you know, there was nothing to do back in those days to hear kids talk today!

My family attended the Estatoe Church of God. My cousin Charles was the pastor. Frank led the choir and played the guitar. Jerry played the bass and you could hear it all the way out to Mammie's house. We opened the windows in the church during hot weather. The folks would get happy in Jesus, sing with all their heart, shout and praise the Lord with everything in them. Bible school was such an exciting time that all us kids looked forward to. Our teachers taught us lessons using flannel grafts (remember those?). We worked on a craft every night to show to our parents at the end of the week. We all looked forward to the snack time when the ladies would serve us cookies and Kool-aid. On the last night, we had a little commencement service where we sang a few songs and usually had some hamburgers and hotdogs for supper. I was always proud when I got to attend every night and received the gold star on my Bible School Certificate.

Daddy worked for the Great Lakes Carbon Corporation in Morganton and got home from work around 5 each evening. He would sometimes tell us he was going to take us all swimming up Crabtree Creek. The day seemed to drag on forever as we waited for him to get home. We would stand beside him as he ate with towels around our necks, dressed in our cutoff jeans, telling him to hurry and eat so we could leave. Mama would take soap and washcloths so we could bathe in the creek. The water seemed so cold but always refreshed us. After we bathed in the creek, we were literally sparkling clean from all the mica that stuck to our skin. But hey, we smelled like an Irish Spring! We would be so tired from swimming. Mama would make homemade hamburgers in a cast-iron skillet. We would be so hungry and those were the best burgers I ever ate. These burger joints had nothing on Mama's burgers!

Garden work was a necessary "evil" during the summer. We loved the vegetables from the garden but hated the work involved. Mammie put out a garden every year she could. We would sit on the porch for hours stringing and breaking beans. She would "look" those beans and make sure to cut off every speck with that one certain knife she always used. Sometimes we could hear the train from Penland and it seemed so close. She always said that it was a sign of rain to come when the train was so loud. Sometimes she would send me and my brother Mike over to Gordon Huskin's pasture to pick some apples he had given her permission to get. Gordon had a bull in the pasture that did not like trespassers in his territory. We would "sic" our dog on the cows to distract the bull so we could make it to the apple trees. Don't worry, the dog only chased them a little to get the bull's attention. We would fill our buckets with apples and then make a run for the gate. Sometimes the bull saw us and we had to drop our buckets and run for our lives! Mammie would cut rhubarb from the garden and made rhubarb pie. It was delicious!

You see, our past is filled with memories made with family and friends. Those things that seemed so insignificant then are often the things that we miss the most now. I have found the more I talk about those memories the more memories I remember! Funny how that works. Now some may read these things I've written about and think "How silly! What's the big deal?" Well to me, it makes me realize just how much God has blessed me. In all those memories are people, family, and friends that Jesus placed there to share life with. The time God gives us here is not just about us but also about all those people we get to love along the way. We sometimes fail to realize that as we are living this life we are making memories that will be with us always. The laughter we share, the tears we shed together, the help we give each other along the way, these all matter. Why don't you slow down a little and take some time to get together with those you love....and remember when?

I've got to go...Michelle is making hamburgers!

Preacher Chris Rathbone serves as Pastor at Mine Creek Baptist Church.

First Baptist of Marshall

Humor

By Buddy Freeman
Madison County

Laughter is Healthy for You
Grouch Marx says of his wedding, " I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury."

A Boss yelled at one of his workers, "Dave, I have taught you everything I know, and you still don't know anything!"

During an airplane flight, a grandfather asked the person sitting beside him. He asked, "Have I told you about my grandchildren?" "No," said the gentlemen, "and I really do appreciate it."

In a very close baseball game, the coach called a young player over and asked, "Do you know what cooperation is?" The boy said, "Yes." The coach asked, "Does it matter that we will win together as a team?" The boy said, "Yes." The coach said, "When a strike is called, or you're out at first, you don't argue or curse or attack the empire. Do you understand that?" The little boy said, "Yes sir." "Good," said the coach "Now go over there and explain all of that to your mother."

Will Rogers said, "You know horses are smarter than people. You never heard of a horse going broke betting on people."

Dr Buddy Freeman is now serving as the pastor at First Baptist Church of Marshall, NC.



What's easier than
the easy button?

The GREENE button!



2019 Ram 2500 Big Horn Crew Cab 4X4
DIESEL – Stock 93860

6.7 Liter Turbo Diesel, Parkview Backup
Camera, Sidesteps, 5" Touchscreen, Only
12k miles.

\$45,900...

Call or stop by for a DEAL!



2019 Chrysler Pacifica
Touring L – Stock 93912

3.6 Liter V-6, Leather Heated Seats &
Steering Wheel, Safety Tec Pkg. Stow 'n Go
2nd & 3rd Row Seating.

Only \$24,600!!



2018 Jeep Wrangler Sport 4X4 –
Stock 2801A

2.0 Liter Turbo Engine, Automatic, 3 Piece
Hard Top, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel.
Only 6,600 Miles!

Buy Now \$28,900!

7 SMART REASONS TO BUY CERTIFIED FACTORY BACKED

This Certified Factory Backed Vehicle has undergone
a comprehensive inspection and reconditioning process.

- 1 **7-YEAR/100,000-MILE
POWERTRAIN LIMITED WARRANTY⁽¹⁾**
- 2 **3-MONTH/3,000-MILE
MAXIMUM CARE COVERAGE⁽²⁾**
- 3 **125-POINT INSPECTION**
- 4 **CARFAX[®] REPORTS**
- 5 **24-HOUR
ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE⁽³⁾**
- 6 **CAR RENTAL ALLOWANCE⁽⁴⁾**
- 7 **SIRIUS[®] SATELLITE RADIO⁽⁵⁾
3-MONTH TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION**

 **certified pre-owned**
CHRYSLER | DODGE | JEEP | RAM



I-40 Exit 100 • 910 Jamestown Rd. • Morganton, NC 28655

www.johngreenecdj.com • **828-584-5337**

Check out our new Website-www.brcnews.com
And find us on Facebook

Jim Armstrong Subaru



**NEW 2020 Subaru Crosstrek
Limited**

Leather Upholstery, Navigation System,
Power Moonroof, Lane Departure, Distance
Pacing Cruise



**NEW 2020 Subaru Outback
Limited**

Navigation System, Leather Upholstery,
Blind Spot Sensor,
Power Moonroof, Lane Departure and
Much More!



**NEW 2020 Subaru Ascent
Touring 7-Passenger**

Navigation System, Leather Upholstery,
Lane Departure, Blind Spot, Power Moon-
roof, Distance Pacing Cruise



Jim Armstrong Subaru

2321 HWY 70 WEST • HICKORY • 828-322-9372
WWW.JIMARMSTRONGSUBARU.COM

Search Me, O God

By Dan Qurollo
Burke County



In recent weeks, we have seen many changes in our lives. We have become all too familiar with terms such as “social distancing” and “quarantine.” Nearly all sporting events were canceled in a very short time, causing some to question what to do in their spare time. Others received the heart-breaking news that they have lost their job. As we face a path still defined by uncertainty, we do well to pray like the psalmist, “*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting*” (Psalm 139:23-24).

The first question we must ask is “Where is my trust?” Fear is the natural response to an individual’s loss of security and comes in a variety of ways. What will the economy do? How will I provide? Scripture necessitates that believers place unwavering confidence in God, the One who never changes (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8). Proverbs 3:5-6 instructs us, “*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*” Philippians 4:6-7 teaches, “*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*” If your trust is truly placed in God, you will discover peace, even in times of uncertainty.

Those who trust God must trust the nature of God’s plan. God’s plan is described briefly in Philippians 1:6, “*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.*” This work was begun the moment of salvation and will be culminated when we are glorified. This plan is further elaborated in Romans 8:28-30. All that God directs and/or allows into our lives will be sovereignly brought about to produce that which is beneficial.

We must also trust the nature of God’s promises. While many promises can be cited, I will cite only one. Hebrews 13:5 urges us, “*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*” Regardless of what we may face as believers, we can be assured that we will never face it alone.

A second question we must ask is “What are my priorities?” These times have shown how fluid and changing everything can become in a short time. Jobs that were certain become uncertain. Offices are closed and people are sent home, some to work at home, while others to not work at all. Such change produces uncertainty and reveals one’s priorities.

What is truly important? Is it the security of a job? Or is it your walk with the Lord? Matthew 6:33 teaches, “*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*” Colossians 3:1-3 teaches, “*If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*” God often allows trials to enter our lives to remind us of that which is truly important. Use this time to prayerfully examine your own life to determine what God is trying to teach you.

Pastor Dan Qurollo is pastor Morganton Baptist Church. Check us out on our website www.morgantonbaptist.net or find us on Facebook and YouTube.



RAY’S TREE SERVICE

- **Hazardous Tree Removal**
- **View Clearing**
- **Pruning**
- **Chipper Service**
- **Bucket Truck Service**

- **Hedge Trimming**
- **Hemlock Wooly Adelgid Control**
- **Landscaping & Grading**
- **Retaining Walls**
- **Stump Grinding**

Certified Arborist • Insured • Free Estimates
Serving This Area 10 Years

(828) 467-1113



Window Shopping For Death

By Steve Bietz
Burke County



This Spring, my wife and I decided to spend some money and do some needed upgrades on our home. We are getting some windows replaced. Our home was built in the late 80s and still has the original single pane windows. New windows do not come cheap. We don't know if this will be the last home we own or if we will sell it as we get older, but in either case, we thought it best to upgrade our windows. We took some time to consider the financial pluses and minuses. This is several thousands of dollars. We considered the wear and tear on our furnace as it works harder because of our outdated less efficient windows. We looked at the monthly electric bills. We looked at resale value. And after considering the cost, we decided that the best deal was that we would replace our windows.

Maybe you have had to consider home upgrade costs lately. Maybe your furnace, or your siding, or your roof, was a replacement cost you needed to consider. Much of our lives are about price tags. Of course, my article title is suggesting we consider the cost of death. Now I am not referring to the funeral package you choose, although that is indeed a cost to consider. According to the National Funeral Directors Association, the average traditional burial can cost around \$9000.00 once all services are accounted for. While the averages for cremation are between \$2000.00 - \$4000.00. Something to consider for sure.

Jesus indicated that becoming a Christian and a disciple is a serious thoughtful process. Could it be like considering the cost of window replacement? Luke (14:25-35) records that great crowds were following Jesus when He turned to them on this particular occasion and reminded His listeners of the seriousness of looking at the price tag. Count the cost is His message. How foolish it would be He asks, if you were a builder who began construction without getting estimates on the costs. You might run out of money after only laying down the foundation. I certainly got estimates on replacing the windows in my house.

Or what if you were a king with 10,000 men, Jesus noted, and the army you are going to face has 20,000 men. Wouldn't you want to think this thing over a good bit before you charged at the enemy? Might want to ask for peace terms instead of attacking. Jesus said that we should make sure that following Him is worth it. There is no room here for a decision to be made on a whim and a prayer. There are serious consequences to consider...life-threatening consequences.

Sometimes, I have been able to make a quick decision about the cost of a decision. I owned a printing company for many years. One day, I got a call from a fellow who said that my printing company had been recommended to him. So, we made an appointment when I would come to his business and discuss what he wanted to print. When I arrived, the owner of the company was on the phone, so I had a few minutes to browse around his company, which was a men's clothing store. As I looked at a rack of sports coats, one my size caught my eye and I took it off the rack to get a better look at it. It was nice so I reached for the tag hanging from the sleeve so that I could consider the cost. I got to tell you, I thought the price tag had been misprinted. Remember, this is just a sport's jacket. The cost was \$4000.00. I very gently put the jacket back on the rack, in the hope that I did not dare damage it. The cost consideration was so obvious that I did not think twice. No chance this sports jacket was going home with me after I counted the cost.

Window shopping for death. Not the death and taxes that are unavoidable on this planet. No, I am referring to eternal death. If we are comparing the price of eternal death to the price of eternal life, what are the considering factors? What is your life worth? The currency of heaven is love and it is best seen expressed in Calvary. That is where we find our true value. Count the cost? How can any price be too much to live in God's love today, and for eternity? Jesus may demand everything, but it is still the best bargain that the world has ever known. As you consider the cost of being a disciple for Christ, count the cost of not following Christ.

Steve Bietz, Pastor, Morganton Seventh day Adventist Church.

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. John 13:34-35

WANTED

THE WESTERN SIZZLIN STEAK OF THE WEEK





• NOTORIOUS FOR BEING A GREAT VALUE •
• KNOWN TO BE "FLAMEKIST" TO LOCK IN THE JUICES •
• LEGENDARY FOR A BOLD AND DELICIOUS FLAVOR •

828.765.9151

South Hwy 226
Spruce Pine, NC
Spruce Pine Shopping Center

Carolina Home Care Specialists, INC

Excellence in Personalized Care

Medicaid Covered Services

- In-Home Care for Children & Adults
- CAP for Disabled Adults & Children
- CAP Choice
- Pediatric Nurse Aids

Other Services

- Private Pay
- Insurance
- VA Homemaker Service
- Companion/Sitter
- Respite

Our In-Home Aides are supervised by a registered nurse who is available during all hours worked by the aide.

Phone (828) 765-4343 • (866) 765-4340

Steven W Gaito

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER TM

With an estimated 30 trillion dollars of debt by the end of they year, what impact will this have on the taxes you pay on your retirement?

Let me show you what it could be
and
how to minimize the impact of taxes in retirement.

To schedule an appointment email, me or call me at the number below.

68 South Main Street, Suite 200 Marion NC 28752
(828) 559-0299
Steve@retirerm.com



Hospice and Home Care
of the Blue Ridge, Inc.
Hospice, Palliative Care & CAP

Come join our team!

We are currently accepting applications for Certified Nursing Assistants for the Avery County CAP program. If you are interested in a position please contact Paula Holtsclaw, Director of CAP Services at (828)-765-5677.

POEM

A Mother's Prayer for Help

By Joy Baldwin

Madison County

*Lord give me FAITH to live each day
And PEACE to sleep at night
HOPE to help my friends in need
And not give up the fight.*

*Give me COURAGE ere to stand
Your POWER for the way
Lord help me follow you each step
Oh, lead me on each day.*

*Lord give me UNDERSTANDING
For those who are in need
CHARITY to care for all
Desire to sow good seed.*

*Give me LOVE for all mankind
Your spirit to light my heart
Give me JOY that I can share
And laughter to impart.*

*Forgive me of my sins I pray
And wash me in your blood
Fill my heart with RIGHTEOUSNESS
My soul with eternal love.*

AMEN



Joy is a resident of Madison County, where she now lives with her husband, Danny Joe Baldwin. She is currently a member of Mt Zion Baptist church in Marshall, NC. As a previous member, she calls Forks of Ivy Missionary Baptist Church in Weaverville, "home away from home". She is currently singing with the Gospel Group "Jonah's Voice" out of Mars Hill, NC. Her latest song "Homecoming" will soon be heard by many.

**Welcome Home
savings event**

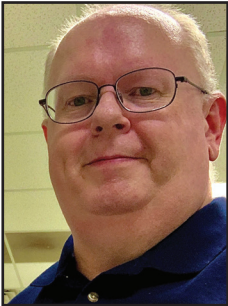
**A place to
call home.**



(828) 433-8455
1276 Burkemont Ave.
Morganton, NC 28655
claytonmorganton.com

How to Live Stream

By Kevin Purcell
Burke County



In this crazy pandemic, churches are going live on Facebook or with other services so that people can still worship together even while they are physically apart. My church started live streaming our service for people who were sick and for people who wanted to virtually visit High Peak Baptist Church first before visiting in person. When the Coronavirus came along and people retreated to their homes, we were ready. Maybe your church was not, but you want to.

No one knows when this crisis will end. We know God is in control and by the time you read this, it might have ended or might come to an end soon. However, it is still a good idea to keep streaming, even if people don’t need to stay home to avoid a virus.

Reasons to Stream Worship Live

First, consider streaming because it is a good way for shut-ins and sick people to worship even while they can’t get out. If they do not own a computer, smartphone or tablet, a member could bring them one for Sunday. They could log onto the Internet for the home-bound person and show them how to enjoy the worship service remotely.

Second, potential visitors would love to sample your service before they commit to coming. They are more likely to do that if you have a vibrant online presence. Experts tell us that most guests will check out a worship service online before they ever visit in person. One of the members who joined most recently found us through our Facebook page (Facebook.com/HighPeakChurch).

Third, Facebook saves your service. People who really enjoyed or felt inspired by a sermon special event can go back later and relive the special moment.

Finally, people who fall away from a church will often check in on their “former” church through Facebook live or live streams. They might even decide to come back after being inspired by the service.

It is not all perfect. Some people will watch and decide they like “worshipping” in their pajamas and make it a habit. I have seen very little of that, but I have seen it. Combat that by reaching out to such people and encouraging them that the church needs them. Also, preach or testify to the value of being present with others. I think this pandemic will lead people back to the church as much as pull them apart depending on their commitment level. The truly committed will miss their church family and the uncommitted will not miss it and might justify leaving the church by saying live stream was an acceptable alternative for a few weeks/months. Why not now?

How to Stream Inexpensively

I will not go through the process of setting up a live stream system step-by-step because I already did that in an article written on ChurchTechToday.com (bit.ly/CTTLiveStream). Go there and see the full steps. It is about 2 years old so maybe a little out of date, but you get the idea of how to do it from that piece.

Here is what you’ll need to live stream to Facebook using your church’s sound system.

1. A sound system with an extra audio output.
2. An adapter that connects a quarter-inch jack into your computer.
3. A camera with an HDMI output.
4. An adapter that plugs your camera’s HDMI output into your computer.
5. Software to stream live with.
6. A computer capable of running your software.

Let’s look at each item. First, you probably already have a sound system and it likely will include an extra sound output that you can use to connect to the computer (#1 above). That cable will need an adapter that will convert from the output of your sound system to the typical stereo input jack on your computer. Sometimes you can do this with one cable or you may already have the sound system output cable and only need an adapter (#2 above).

The next thing you need is a camera (#3 above) with an HDMI output. We use an old HD video camcorder that has an HDMI output jack. You can also use a DSLR like a Canon T1i, an older style computer that you can find for about \$150 on Amazon with a lens. You may need a longer zoom lens if you are far away like my church.

The camera connects to an adapter (#4 above) to the computer. We use an Elgato HD60 capture device. You’ll plug the HDMI cable from the camera to the HD60. Then you will plug the HD60 to the computer.

A lot of different software (#5) will help you stream live to Facebook. There is a free program that can OBS Studio but it’s complicated and sometimes unstable. It runs on Windows. The most expensive option that’s got great support costs \$600+ (www.telestream.net/wirecast/overview.htm).

The best option comes from eCamm Live. It’s \$12/month or more, but it’s also very simple and works great (www.ecamm.com).

The computer (#6 above) will need to receive the input from the Elgato HD60 device. We use an older Mac mini. You can find a decent Mac mini used. Find one from 2015 or later. They often cost less than \$200 and if you buy it on eBay you can get a warranty for a little bit more.

A Simpler Setup But Lower Quality Option

There is one more option I want to mention from a company called Mevo. It’s a camera that connects to your smartphone or tablet and lets you stream to Facebook for a subscription. It is easy to set up and lets you create what looks like a multi-camera setup with only one camera. You can have one shot focused on the pastor and one on the band. Have another on the screen where words are displayed. It is small enough to carry and move from place to place, so you could even use it for more than just reaming worship. Check it out at www.Mevo.com and subscribe for as low as \$15/month or as much as \$75/month for all the bells and whistles. You do not need the costlier option if you only plan to record or stream it to Facebook.

Dr. Kevin Purcell is the pastor of High Peak Baptist Church off Exit 107 on I-40. He’s also written about church and Bible technology for www.ChurchTechToday.com and other publications. He covers Bibles software and tech at www.Kevin-Purcell.org and on his YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/c/KevinPurcellBehindThePulpit.

News from Liberia

By George Patton, Jr.
Burke County



As with the rest of the world, there have been some challenges here in Liberia. I have to admit a few times it has been tempting to leave. Twice we were contacted by the embassy telling us they had a flight out and twice we said we were going to wait until May as we had planned if it was possible. The work has slowed some. We have only been able to baptize 21 people this month because of the government lockdown, but we have so many waiting to be baptized. We have 11 new churches that have joined the association now giving us a total of 23, with 2 new church plants going in. We have not been able to ordain anyone. We are quarantined here in Liberia from 3 pm to 6 am. The soldiers line the streets after 3 and there are checkpoints everywhere. If you don’t have a pass to be out, they will give you much trouble, even confiscating your car or motorbike. No one is allowed to leave. The government is getting hard on any assemblies. We were told that 2 pastors, out in the jungle were killed a little more than a week ago for having prayer services. Yesterday we tried to have some small teaching at the school with the Apostolic Women’s Network when we received a tip that the police had been called and were on the way. Our group scattered to a house that we knew of that belongs to one of our pastors. Some went one way, and some went another. After crossing the swamp and making it to the railroad tracks, the police arrived where we had previously been meeting to find the place empty. Praise God all the ladies and my wife and I were safe. We were able to have a good training session but have canceled all of the rest of our plans for the time being here in the capital city. We are planning, by the Lord’s will, to go out to the bush next week. There are 15 pastors in the jungle that have sent word to please come. These people are so very hungry for the word of God. Truly I feel like I am back in China. Having to sneak here and hide there. We are coming back to the USA on May 19. Please pray because as of right now the airport is closed. Our prayer is that everything will reopen on May 1. The people here are quite confused as to why the churches are closed. They tell me that even during the Ebola outbreak the churches never closed. Our work in Sierra Leone has stopped right now other than email communication. The borders here are closed, no one can come now, and no one can go. I see so many of the people struggling to even find food. Praise the Lord and thank you for all who helped with the rice. We were able to buy 25, fifty-pound sacks of rice for distribution. We gave all the pastors a sack of rice and then divided up the last of the rice for the widows. Many of the pastors here work in the school system or some other public job, but with everything closed they have not been able to work and so far, there has not been any government assistance. The churches here do good to carry their own but are not able to carry a pastor full time. Please help us to pray for the reopening of the country. We have around 300 more that need to be baptized once the country opens. Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support. It has been a great blessing knowing that you are home praying for us. It has certainly given us the courage and the strength to continue. We love all of you so very much and can’t wait to see you again very soon.

George Patton is an evangelist/missionary to the world from Grace Baptist Church in Morganton.



Premier

INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.

Providing you knowledgeable assistance and high quality service.

Proudly serving the great citizens of Western NC for 25 years with Health, Employer Group Health Plans, Medicare Plans, Life, Annuities, 401K Transfers and Long Term Care Coverage

275 North Main Street • Marion, NC 28752
828.652.1553 local • 888.528.1553 toll free

Contact one of our knowledgeable agents today

5		6						9
		9		2				8
			6	9		3		
	5	3			4			
7	6						9	1
			9			2	5	
		8		6	2			
4				8		6		
6						1		7

Bright and Beautiful Promises

By Ken and Jan Merop
Avery County



The sun was shining at last. Though the air held a bit of that frosty touch, the sun’s brightness invited a stroll outdoors.

The rock garden located below our patio is planted with bulbs. As I walked up to the edge of the patio and looked down, beautiful purple and white crocuses that had pushed up through the mulch greeted me. They were like bright smiles in a dreary yard awaiting new life to pulse through the tree limbs, bushes, and other plants.

Bravely they had stuck their little heads above the ground where I could enjoy them and smile back!

The saying, “The earth laughs in flowers” is attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson. I agree with him.

I cannot go by a garden, come across flowers blooming in unexpected places or enjoy those in a pitcher or vase on my table without smiling.

I am tickled by them. And laughter always accompanies tickling.

Like with so many things in our daily lives, flowers can become commonplace to us. But instead, they should awaken awe, beauty, and invigorating hope into our souls.

Not just because they are there for our enjoyment, but because the Creator has given us this beauty through His amazing creative hand. They are reminders of his beautiful promises that feed our souls as well.

It is important for us to look beyond the creation and see the Creator’s hand. To see His love for His creation. To know that all He has done and continues to do in sustaining us and this planet we live on is so that we can know Him in a personal way.

In Colossians 1: 15, NLT, we read these words.

“Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation.”

Then further along in verse 17, it says, *“...and he holds all creation together.”*

Unfortunately, because of sin’s curse, decay accompanies every living thing. But let these hearty flowers remind you of God’s promises as seen in 2 Peter 1: 3 – 4.

“By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises...that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption...”

Bright and beautiful promises for this world and the next. Selah

Promise of Spring
Decaying mulch hardly seems the bed for beauty.
Nevertheless, it emerges from beneath the ground
Purple and white crocuses breaking through winter’s harshness.
A cross, crown of thorns and a borrowed tomb
hardly seem the likely place to find promise.
Till Jesus burst forth from the tomb...just as He said.
“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here,
But is risen!”
Luke 24: 5 and 6



Ken and Jan love residing in the mountains of Avery County. Visit Jan’s new blog @pauseandconsider.net, Journeying with Jan. Ken’s photos can be seen at kenmeropphotography.com.



WHITSON

REALTY

"The Broker That Gets Results"

HOMES • FARMS
LAKEFRONT • LOTS
ACREAGE • COMMERCIAL



South of 1-40
3800 Sugar Hill Rd.
Marion, NC 28752

Dennis J. Whitson, Broker | 1999 Realtor of the Year
(828) 738-3540
www.WhitsonRealty.com | dennisw@WhitsonRealty.com





Freedom Life Enterprises:

- Marion Fabric & Upholstery
- Freedom Auto Detailing
- Freedom Landscaping - Commercial & Residential
- Cozy Cabin - Coffee, Gifts, Furnishings

78 West Marion Business Park
Marion, NC 28752 • 828-559-2700

The Call

By Phillip Greene
Avery County

One of the most common things that we hear in our daily lives as followers of Christ are the words “He called me to this” or “It’s my calling.” While those statements are meant with a good heart and good intentions, I want to explore that for a minute and think truly about what God’s call in our lives may be.

During times that are hard, we tend to get caught up in our own versions of Christianese. What do I mean by that? It seems that Christians have their own language most days...they talk differently, use different words, and many of which are the canned comments that have been used in the circles of the Church for years.

As I have thought and prayed throughout the days and weeks, something has continued to flood my heart and mind: It is not that we are called to a job or called to live, Christ calls us to Himself. It is when we answer that call that He can then, through us, accomplish His will in us.

This is something that has caused me some struggle in understanding, but I believe that what I am recognizing in this is that we are simply called to Christ. He does not call us to be this way or that way, he simply says come to me. When that call is answered we have removed the resistance that stands in the way of completion.

Think about it.

In Matthew 11:28 he says, “Come unto me...I will give you rest.”

In Mark 5 we see the story of the woman with the issue of blood- a woman who had been shunned by society, deemed unclean, and had been battling for years. A woman who knew, in her heart and by faith, if she could just draw near to Him her needs would be met. It didn't matter the size of the crowd, the obstacles in the way, or the difficulty in getting there. She knew getting to the hem of His garment would be enough. She just needed a touch from the One who could bring healing.

People thought she was crazy. They thought she did not matter. Jesus thought otherwise.

In fact, Jesus was on the way to Jarius’ home to heal his daughter, walking on the road in the midst of a crowd, and he came to a complete stop and questioned, “Who touched me?” The disciples questioned Him, and people thought He was crazy. He was in a crowd. Of course, someone touched Him, but they did not understand.

The woman understood. She was healed. She felt it. She believed. There is something for us in this. Jesus stopped what He was doing and looked for the one who had touched Him. Look at her response. She came completely clean, with fear and trembling (in reverent awe), she told Jesus everything, and He told her that her faith had made her well.

Jesus hears the one. The one crying out. The one who has the faith to touch His garment.

No matter how difficult the journey to get there, it is the attitude of faith that heals us. It is the fear and trembling in us that shows our motive and intent. It is His love that completes us and makes us whole.

He calls us to Himself.

He says we are His and He is accessible.

Keep Praying, do not give up, and don’t give in. Approach the throne of grace with confidence, leave your burdens there, and know that Jesus has heard your prayer! Do not lose heart during difficult times.

1 Peter 5:7 – “Cast your cares upon the Lord, for He cares for you.”

Phillip Greene is the Station Manager/Program Director for WECR-AM Radio/Glory 1130.



BREAKING - National Day of Prayer
Event a "GO" in Mitchell County!

By Brian Barrier
Mitchell County



Although due to the recent COVID-19 outbreak and government-ordered shutdown of most all public gatherings and events, a local coordinator has found a way to keep the "Good News" and the National Day of Prayer in our community this year.

Monica Kritz, the Mitchell County Coordinator for National Day of Prayer, has partnered with radio station WTOE in an effort to make this the largest National Day of Prayer event in the history of Mitchell County.

The National Day of Prayer is a day set aside for communities around the United States to gather and pray for our nation, state and local leaders and situations. Although this year will be much different, it could turn out to be the largest attendance in history because most people have been ordered to stay home except for essential activities. Access to this event will be open to many who were not able to be in attendance in person over the past few years. Also, many who wanted to be there in person but were embarrassed to be seen at a public event will be tuning in to hear from God! Perhaps our Lord is providing people the necessary time and opportunity to tune in to WTOE on AM 1470 or listen live at www.ourlocalcommunityonline.com/.

The 2020 National Day of Prayer for Mitchell County will take place on Thursday, May 7th, 2020 starting at 11:00 a.m. Again, it will be streamed live at WTOE online and also radio station AM 1470. The theme for this year will be "Pray God's Glory across the earth". In preparation for the event, you are asked to read Habakkuk 2:14. The event will include exclusive speakers, music and of course, a special time of prayer.

Kritz had the following message for the community, "Wherever you are, stop for a few moments and listen and pray with us...this is for individuals, for our town and county, for our state, and our nation! Please help us spread the word...share this information with everyone you know! Our nation is in distress, and we need the power of God to intervene in our situation! Of course, we must do our part...we need to repent and turn away from our sin and call on GOD to forgive us and heal our nation. Please, please, heed this call to pray! And tell others!"

*** We are asking everyone to tie red, white, & blue ribbons on your car antenna. Tell others about this as well, in honor of the National Day of Prayer 2020. ***

I think we can all agree that we need God more than ever in these unprecedented times. God told us:

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land". 2 Chronicles 7:14. To God be the glory!!

Brian Barrier is a life-long resident of Burke County, U.S. Army Veteran, a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church and Publisher of the Blue Ridge Christian News.



Servicing the Morganton Area
828-544-1776
www.benfranklinplumbingmorganton.com



100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
Straightforward Pricing® • Same Day Service
Fully Licensed and Insured • Drug Tested, Background-Checked Employees


CHECK OUT THESE GREAT OFFERS!

\$75 OFF
New Water Heater Installation

\$50 OFF
ANY Drain Cleared

\$25 OFF
Any Repair

If there's any delay, it's you we pay!







David C. Small, D.D.S., M.S., P.A.
Christian G. Piers, D.D.S., M.S., M.F.A
Orthodontics for ALL ages!

110 Juniper St. Suite 300
Morganton, NC 28655
(828) 433-1242

382 10th Ave Dr. NE
Hickory, NC 28655
(828) 322-1250

Emergency Contact: (828) 514-1981
www.smallortho.com





**ASHEVILLE ELDERLY AND DISABLED VAN
GOES TO ASHEVILLE MON.-THRU.-FRI. 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM**
CALL: 828-682-6144/9304
“Serving the Community”

NO TRIPS SCHEDULED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

www.brcnews.com

May 2020- Blue Ridge Christian News page 29

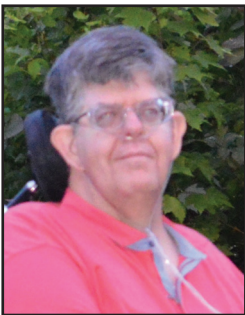
Hymns

By Allen Buchanan
Mitchell County

What is your favorite hymn or Christian song and why? To get an idea as to how people react to this question, I turned to social media. Many replied that it’s difficult to pinpoint one or two songs. Answers included: Too hard to answer, I have so many. “You Were Faithful Yesterday.” I guess because He has been, is and will be. There are too many to name. But, at the moment, one of my favs is “I Got Saved.” It is “Well with My Soul” is one of my favorites. Cause as long as that is true, you’re ok! “Amazing Grace.” What would we do without His grace? “I Can Only Imagine.” “Leaning on His Everlasting Arms,” I remember my mother singing it in church. “It is Well.” (Right Now - I have so many...) "What A Friend We Have in Jesus." When I need encouragement from Jesus, I sing this song. Contemporary is “All My Hope Is in Jesus” by Crowder. He is the only one I can trust now and forevermore. "I Must Tell Jesus." I love getting on my knees and telling Jesus all of my troubles. I guess I would say, “Rock of Ages.” Why? Because the LORD is a constant, solid source of protection, security, strength, and encouragement. Because only He can save, and He does it freely if I only cling to Him. And because when this life is over, I am gonna "fly to worlds unknown and behold Him on His throne!" Blessed Assurance is my favorite hymn. I don’t really know “why," I have just loved it the most for as long as I can remember. The most amazing thought to me is that My Savior knew me and my sinfulness and loved me anyway! It’s heartbreaking to me to think that while He was suffering on the cross to cover and pay for my sins He looked down through time and loved me. My favorite song is “When He Was on The Cross, I Was in His Mind.” I’ve told my kids; I want it sung 3 times (at least) at my funeral! “Amazing Grace”—the message always comes through no matter what genre of gospel music it’s sung... and the “Fa Sol La Song” by the Inspirations—reminds me so much of my grandparents. “Who You Say I Am” by Hillsong. My girls love it!

Other songs that were mentioned include: “I’ll Fly Away,” “Nothing Else,” “Heart of Worship,” “Draw Me Nearer,” “Chain Breaker,” “It Will Get Better,” “Sheltered In The Arms of God,” “In Christ Alone,” “His Eye Is On The Sparrow,” “Give Me Your Eyes,” “Testify To Love,” “I Love To Tell The Story,” “Let Them See You in Me,” “I Have Been Blessed,” “Jerusalem,” “It’s Under The Blood,” “My Name Is Written In Heaven,” “Victory In Jesus,” “Right On Time,” “Where Could I Go But To The Lord,” and “Just As I Am.” As I wrote these song titles down memories filled my heart and soul. The first time I ever heard, “I Can Only Imagine” was after my brother heard it on WMIT. He called me and said I needed to hear it. Awesome words brought me to tears. I spent that evening trying to imagine being in heaven, in the presence of Jesus. Brings to mind another song, “Won’t It Be Wonderful There?” My favorite song of all is “How Great Thou Art.” I remember a radio personality stating that Contemporary Christian Music {CCM} would replace hymns. I’m a fan of CCM but I still love the hymns I grew up listening to. The sweetest memories are listening to my mother or grandmother sing hymns as they did housework. One of the easiest ways to pass time away on road trips was singing our favorite hymns. When my wife’s family gets together, they sing many of the old loved songs.

Allen Buchanan is a freelance Christian writer. Allen attends Bear Creek Baptist church.



Is Fear Reigning in Your Life?

By Miguel Cruz
Yancey County

COVID-19 is all we hear about these days, and people are afraid. And along with that, people are confused. There is the traditional media that specializes in pushing fear and worse case scenarios, then there are all the other social medias that we all use to keep in touch. People are posting and re-posting interviews and statements saying this is all a hoax and we should get back to normal again.

So how do we decipher all this? I say with Wisdom. Spend an hour in Proverbs as soon as you can and see what God has to tell you about Wisdom. Ecclesiastes & Psalms are also good books to study. How do we get Wisdom in this day and age? Aside from spending time in the Word of God and spending quiet time to LISTEN to what God has to tell you in your heart, we have to educate ourselves. Regarding COVID-19, that is not hard to do. I recommend going on the CDC website for yourself, get the FACTS, and stop listening to the TV announcers.

I got on today 4/18/2020 and got the following FACTS:
US population according to the US Census estimated on July 1, 2019 – 328,239,523
Confirmed Corona cases according to CDC – 524,514
Percentage of infected - .0015%
How does that compare to what you are hearing?

What about worldwide, the world population is roughly 7.8 billion. According to the CDC website, there are 1,739,007 confirmed cases worldwide, this comes to .0002%.

The current research is saying that thousands have probably been infected and did not know it because the symptoms were not severe. So even if you did get it, if you are healthy it may present no more than a cold or the typical flu. If on the other hand, you are in poor health, then you can have life-threatening consequences so it would be wise to use all precautions.

The next wave of information/misinformation/opinion depending on how you view it is going to be about the statistics I just quoted above. The media and vaccine proponents are going to be telling us that the quarantine is working, and we should keep it up until the curve is flattened or a vaccine is ready. The anti-media is saying you see, it’s been all a hoax. Who’s right? You will have to decide for yourself, but I think a little bit on both sides. The virus is real and devastating to those with compromised immune systems, and some quarantine measures were probably necessary, for those anyway. So, the quarantine measures I am sure did help. If it was worth people losing jobs, businesses, and wrecking lives, that’s debatable. As for those who say we need to keep up the quarantine until everyone on the planet can get a vaccine, you can follow the money on that one. I think we should have those yelling the loudest be the first in line for the human trials. They can be Guinea pigs.

So, what can we do now? If you have more time on your hands, Please, Please, Please, spend time with God, listen to your heart, be still and know that He is God and He is in control.



Dr. Miguel Cruz is in practice along with his wife of 35 years, Lesia Cruz who is a certified Integrative Nutritionist. They own Cruz Life Center in Burnsville NC. Dr. Cruz is a licensed Chiropractor since 1981. When asked what he does for a living he explains that he helps people get out of pain and improve their overall health without the use of drugs or surgery. Something everyone seems to want but nobody seems to know how to get there. Dr. Cruz accepted Jesus Christ in the summer of 1979 while in chiropractic school. He has since dedicated his life towards helping people grow in physical health and spiritual health.



Lakeview Mercantile & Gardens

3 & 4 Generation Owners • 55 Years Experience • New Merchandise



- Garden Supplies
- Seed
- Annuals
- Perennials
- Shrubs
- Soils
- Fertilizer
- Pottery & Containers
- Hanging Baskets



665 Oak Ave. Spruce Pine, NC

765-9133

Hours: Mon - Sat 9am-5pm



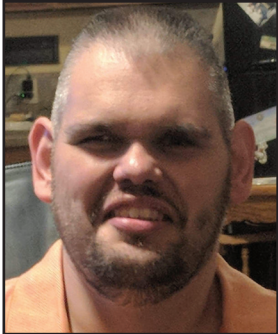
Find us on Facebook for Specials

Faith In A Time Of Crisis

By David Valls
Mitchell County

I had planned to finish my series of articles on the purpose of salvation, but God has laid something else on my mind. As most of us know, our nation is facing something like we have never seen before in our lifetime. The Lord gave me this thought, should a time of crisis lead to a crisis of faith? The answer is no! If we are a Christian, we understand that just because we trust Christ it does not mean we will not be faced with difficulty. It is in times of difficulty when God builds our character. It is in these difficult times that we learn much of God’s provision through the grace that he has given to us. When Paul had a thorn in the flesh three times, he asked God to remove it... but God responded not by removing this circumstance from Pauls’ life but by declaring, MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THEE. We find many examples in the scripture of people who dealt with a crisis but responded with faith. It's not that they were not fearful, but amid the fear, they demonstrated great faith. The Greatest example of all is our Savior, Jesus Christ! He faced the greatest challenge any could ever face by overcoming the power of death, hell, and the grave. A challenge only He could overcome by taking upon himself the sin of the entire world as he drinks that bitter cup of his father's wrath. He achieved this greatest victory so that you and I could overcome anything that we faced, but we find that the human part of Jesus was in a crisis in the garden as he literally felt the weight of the world being placed on his shoulders. The Bible says he prayed until His sweat became as great drops of blood. No doubt, His human nature wondered if he could go any farther in his humanity. He said if it is thy will let this cup pass from me but then He makes the all-important statement: NOT MY WILL BUT THINE BE DONE. In a time of crisis, Jesus trusted not in his humanity but the divine power that God had given him to be able to accomplish his task. In other words, he trusted in the Father's will over His humanity and He endured the cross and rose again that we could have life eternal. Another example is that of the widow who only had enough meal in her barrel to fix one final meal for her and her son before they would die. God sent a prophet named Elijah who requested that she make a cake for him as well, but she thought it not possible. But she had faith and the meal barrel and the oil didn't run dry! God provided. Then I think of Abraham who after God gave him his son Isaac, was asked of God to sacrifice him. Talk about having to demonstrate faith in a time of crisis! This was the promised son that Abraham had waited so long for and now surely God would not take him! Abraham does what God asked and about the time he raised the knife an angel stopped him and God provided a ram for the sacrifice. Abraham not only had to have enough faith to bind Isaac on the alter, but also enough faith that God would provide a sacrifice. and he did just that. The same is true today! We were in the crisis of sin and God provided the ultimate sacrifice. God can still provide today. Let us allow this current crisis not to weaken the resolve of our faith, but to strengthen it... not because of anything we can do but because of the one who dwells in us, the Lord Jesus Christ!!

David Valls attends Middle District Freewill Baptist Church in Buladean. I am from Mitchell County. I have been the adult class Sunday school teacher for the past 13 years.



Know Your Enemy, Win the War

By Joyce Meyer



The Bible teaches us about spiritual warfare and that we have an enemy, the devil. 1 Peter 5:9 says to resist the devil and stand firm in our faith in God. And Ephesians 6 tells us about the armor of God that helps us overcome our struggle “*against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms*” (v. 12 NIV).

Some people deny the existence of the devil and hell. They don’t believe a loving God would really send anyone to a place of eternal torment. But the Bible teaches us that we do have an enemy and there is a place called hell, so we’re deceiving ourselves if we refuse to believe it.

The Bible also says that God is patient, “*not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance*” (2 Peter 3:9). And John 3:16 says, “*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*”

The Truth About Our Enemy

An effective strategy to gain victory over any enemy is to know who he is and how he operates. The Bible has a lot to say about the devil.

John 8:44 (NIV) says, “*He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*” And 1 Peter 5:8 tells us to “*Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*”

Deception is the devil’s primary strategy to keep us from growing spiritually and fulfilling God’s purposes for our lives. To be deceived simply means you believe a lie. This is dangerous because if you believe a lie, then it will become your reality even though it isn’t true. For example, you can believe someone doesn’t like you and be upset about being rejected when the truth is, they haven’t thought one bad thing about you.

Everyone is affected to some degree by lies they believe. I used to believe I would be able to have a second-rate life because my father had sexually abused me, and I was “damaged goods.” If I hadn’t come to know the truth about God’s love for me and how He could heal and restore my soul, my life would be much different than it is today. I seriously doubt I ever would have become a Bible teacher who is helping others discover how they can know God and become everything He has created them to be in Christ.

We need to pray for God to reveal any deception in our minds because every lie we believe represents something the devil is stealing from us that God wants us to have. I’m talking about real peace and joy, freedom from constantly feeling guilty about something you’ve done, the ability to have healthy relationships or any of the other promises God gives us in His Word.

Be Liberated by the Truth

Our thoughts are so important, and that’s why I teach about the “battlefield of the mind.” We need to be more diligent to think about what we’re thinking about and choose on purpose to think in ways that line up with God’s Word. Jesus said, “*If you abide in My word...you are truly My disciples. And you will know the truth...and the truth will set you free*” (John 8:31-32 AMP).

The key here is to “abide” in God’s Word. To abide means to live and remain in it. As we spend time each day meditating on Scripture, rolling it over and over in our minds, we will gain freedom from wrong mindsets and beliefs.

Here is a practical way to apply this principle. The next time you’re feeling discouraged or having a pity party, ask yourself, “What have I been thinking about?” You’ve likely been mulling over thoughts about what people don’t do for you, what you don’t like about yourself, what you don’t have...and on and on.

The solution to turning your attitude around is by thinking about God and what He says about you.

- Romans 5:8 says God loves you unconditionally and that while you were still a sinner, Christ died for you.
- Psalm 139:14 says that God created you by His own hand in your mother’s womb and you are wonderful.
- Ephesians 2:10 says you are “*God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance*” for you to do.
- And Romans 8:37-39 says you are more than a conqueror through Christ, and there is nothing that can separate you from God’s love.

I want to encourage you to spend time studying these scriptures, praying for God to help you get these truths rooted in your heart. You can also get more encouraging teaching or submit a prayer request by contacting our ministry at www.joycemeyer.org. We love you and want to help you gain victory over the enemy in every area of your life!

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 100 books, including *Battlefield of the Mind* and *Overload: How to Unplug, Unwind and Unleash Yourself from the Pressure of Stress* (Hachette). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.



Out of town? You can still read the "Good News" on our new Website: www.brcnews.com And find us on Facebook

Know a foster parent? Make sure you check on them during COVID-19. Trauma based behaviors can be difficult during social isolation. Interested in becoming a foster parent yourself?

Virtual FOSTER CARE INFORMATION SESSION

Visit www.7homes4kids.com/infoession for dates and registration

For anyone interested in learning more about foster care and the process of becoming a licensed foster parent.



YOUR GOVERNMENT PAGES

NC Senate District 47



Sen. Ralph Hise
Ralph.Hise@ncleg.net
919-733-3460

As the COVID-19 pandemic has gripped our state and nation, hardly anyone has escaped its impact, whether from physical illness resulting from the virus, or financial loss and hardship due to the restrictions put in place to limit the potential strain on our healthcare systems. I have heard from many constituents, as well as other citizens across our state, who are desperate to go back to their jobs or reopen their businesses so they can pay their bills and support their families.

I share the belief of many experts and epidemiologists that in addition to knowing the number of cases, hospital admissions, and deaths due to COVID-19, further data-driven evidence and evaluation are needed for making informed decisions about whether Gov. Cooper's orders should stand, or if we can move away from this economic shutdown he has put in place and begin reopening our state. In March, Gov. Cooper declined Sen. Berger's request to conduct random sample testing, which led the NC General Assembly to provide \$100,000 to support a study led by Wake Forest Baptist Health, in collaboration with Atrium Health, Oracle, and other health technology companies. Leading the study at Wake Forest Baptist Health is Dr. John Sanders who previously served as Commanding Officer of the Naval Medical Research Center. After retiring from the Navy, Dr. Sanders joined Wake Forest Medical School and Wake Forest Baptist Health as Chief of Infectious Diseases. Collaborating on the study is Stanford University epidemiologist Dr. John Ioannidis, one of the most-cited scientists in the world and described by The Atlantic as "one of the most influential scientists alive."

Aspects of this two-pronged study include representative sample antibody testing and syndromic surveillance. Representative sample antibody testing will let us know how many people in our state have developed antibodies to COVID-19, including those who are asymptomatic. Initially, 1,000 at-home antibody test kits were sent out to study participants. These test kits use a drop of blood from a finger prick to identify whether COVID-19 antibodies are present. The syndromic surveillance aspect of the study involves tracking symptoms in real-time and identifying and tracking potential hot spots as they emerge in real-time, through a platform developed by Oracle.

We need this data sooner rather than later. Had Gov. Cooper agreed with Sen. Berger's request to conduct random sample testing in March, when Stanford University began their study, we might have data in hand now for more informed decisions about reopening our state for business. All businesses and jobs are essential to the people who earn their living from them, and we should use all tools at our disposal to enable people to regain their livelihoods as soon as possible.

As always, please share your thoughts with me on these or other issues related to the state government by emailing me at ralph.hise@ncleg.net or calling me at 919-733-3460.

NC House District 86

Time to Plan for Reopening with Tailored Conditions

Rep. Greg Murphy, the US Congressman for NC's 3rd Congressional District, is a physician from Greenville, NC. I served with Dr. Murphy while he represented Pitt County in the NC House before he was elected to Congress. He is a very knowledgeable and able medical professional in addition to his legislative responsibilities. Dr. Murphy recently released a video explaining the need to reopen selective parts of the economy, while maintaining certain restrictions that appear effective in suppressing the coronavirus.

According to Dr. Murphy, continuing some restrictions, including washing hands, wearing masks, and social distancing should still be viewed as essential to stop the virus spread. However, certain small businesses such as beauty salons, barbershops, and restaurants, are critical parts of our economy. They should be allowed to reopen if they follow appropriate restrictions. These businesses will need restrictions tailored to their specific circumstances, perhaps including staggering appointments, requiring chairs to be 6 feet apart to match social distancing guidelines, ensuring staff and customers wear masks and mandating the cleaning and sanitization of surfaces that one would touch multiple times a day. Additional guidelines for restaurants could include seating being one table apart, no greater than four individuals at a table, and all staff members wearing masks and gloves. The virus has affected all businesses, small to large. Dr. Murphy emphasizes our need to develop a common-sense approach to reopening.

I certainly agree that we need to immediately plan for phased reopening, area by area, both geographically and by business or activity. We also especially need to focus on how we can avoid further loss of education for students by providing safe space or alternative methods. We cannot know how long the virus will remain a serious threat, but we cannot keep schools and the economy closed indefinitely. North Carolina must promptly have a plan for fighting the virus while we return at the same time to an economy and society which provides us, after all, with the means to respond to not just the current health challenge but to a myriad of social concerns. A sound education for our citizens and a robust economy are essential to fighting any health or other threat.



Rep. Hugh Blackwell
919-733-5805
Hugh.Blackwell@ncleg.net

NC Senate District 46



Sen. Warren Daniel
Warren.Daniel@ncleg.net
919-715-7823

Friends,

I pray that everyone in your family is healthy and safe. At the time of the writing of this article, our state is still battling COVID-19 with state-wide executive orders issued by Governor Cooper, as well as additional county-level social-distancing orders. I hope that some of those orders will be relaxed reasonably by the time this article is published and that you have been able to complete some home projects and spend quality time with your families during the last two months. To date, North Carolina has had approximately 6800 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with about 200 deaths in our state. We do not know how many of the 6800 persons infected have recovered, but several thousand of them may have. Many of those who have not contracted the virus still have been affected in other ways, with the loss of their jobs, their businesses, their ability to attend church or even hike in many of our state and federal parks. It has truly been a life-altering time for all of us, and the after-effects of the shutdown are likely to be felt for many months to come. On April 28th, the NC General Assembly will return for the 2020 Short Session. I personally believe that Governor Cooper should have called us back earlier for an emergency Special Session, but he chose not to do that. When we do return on April 28th, the House and Senate will begin assessing the state's revenues and cash balance in order to determine how much funding is available for a disaster relief package, and how those funds should be prioritized. Other issues on the front burner will include how we as a state should safely reopen our economy, and how to better protect the First Amendment rights of our churches to continue meeting, and the right of our citizens to peacefully protest. In my view, these are fundamental freedoms that need to be protected if we are to continue to be Americans. As with most tough issues in Raleigh, there are no easy answers. I am thankful that for this time you have granted me the privilege and responsibility to be your voice in government. Please feel free to contact me to share your thoughts on how we should safely and efficiently return our state to normalcy.

And as always, my staff and I continue to be available to assist you, the citizens of Avery, Burke, and Caldwell counties, with any state-level government issues that you may encounter. May God bless each and every one of you during these uncertain times. We don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future.

God Bless America

Share Life Today Now Heard
Daily On American Family Radio

By John Sorensen

Arden, North Carolina: Evangelism Explosion’s daily radio segment, Share Life Today, is now aired every weekday on American Family Radio. Share Life Today is played on 696 radio stations across the United States—180 of those on American Family Radio’s nationwide network.

Dr. John B. Sorensen, President, and CEO of Evangelism Explosion International is the voice of Share Life Today. Each one-minute feature aims to encourage and equip Christian believers to be winsome and active in sharing their faith with the world around them. “Every believer as a witness” is a key strategy to fulfilling the Great Commission. Listeners will learn tips and tools to help them become a better witness for Jesus. They also hear stories of changed lives and learn to better understand the Gospel.

Evangelism Explosion’s (EE) mission is to glorify God by equipping believers to multiply in and through local churches worldwide—for friendship, evangelism, discipleship, and healthy growth. EE believes that this can assist the Church to witness to every person on earth.

American Family Radio’s mission is to give voice to the American Family Association and to inform, equip, and activate individuals to strengthen the moral foundations of American culture, and give aid to the Church in the United States and abroad in its task of fulfilling the Great Commission. Part of their action statement is to encourage Christians to bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ as they live their lives before the world. Evangelism Explosion’s goal is to see every believer become a confident, equipped witness for Jesus Christ. The two organizations stand united in purpose to further the Gospel of Jesus throughout the world. Share Life Today is a free Christian broadcast available to stations by contacting Charley Mefferd at Ambassador Advertising (charley@amb-os.com). Interviews with Dr. John B. Sorensen and other Gospel training tips and tools can be found by visiting ShareLife.Today or by contacting Lara Dykes (ldykes@eeworks.org).

Rev. John B. Sorensen, D.D. is the President/CEO of Evangelism Explosion International, headquartered in Arden, N.C. EE has been a leader in equipping Christians to share their faith for more than 50 years. For more free tips and resources, visit evangelismexplosion.org.



tity, move on from the past, trust in the Lord, stay affixed to the Him, and rejoice in all that He was, is, and will continue to be! As we understand that the world will continue in its brokenness and despair, I pray that you stay focused on the mission that He has set before you and be joyful in the relationship you have with Our Heavenly Father.

Cody Penland is a Youth Leader at First Baptist Church of Nebo. I have my Bachelor of Science in History from Montreat College ('17), and currently attend Fruitland Baptist Bible College in pursuing a call to Pastoral Ministry. I coach boys' basketball for the McDowell County Recreation Department.

Check out our Website-www.brcnews.com
And find us on Facebook

Mitchell County Department of Social Services continues to need foster families from our community to care for our children!

70% of the children in foster care in Mitchell County have to be placed outside our home community due to the lack of foster homes locally.

Foster Parent classes will begin again on June 15, 2020 at the Mitchell County Department of Social Services.

If you are interested or know someone who would make a wonderful foster parent, please call Donna Davis any time at 828-537-1664.

Mitchell County Department of Social Services wishes all of our dedicated Foster Mother's, as well as all other Mother's in the community, a wonderful **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

THE HEARTBEAT OF

THE HIGH COUNTRY

Wake up with
Glory in the Morning
with PHILLIP GREENE

Home of the
HIGH COUNTRY SWAP SHOP
FOR SALE
9:30 to 10:30 am - M to F
9:30 to 10 am - Sat
P: (828) 733-9725
E: weccr@bellsouth.net
AM1130 • WECC • NEWLAND

If you would like to be part of our “Heartbeat” and help bring the Message of God to our community, contact our sales team, (828) 264-2411

WE BUY HOUSES

Behind on Payments?
Need Quick Cash?
Any Price Range

Call (828) 412-0822
www.sillmanhomebuyers.com

SILLMAN HOME BUYERS

Spruce Pine, NC

ACCREDITED BUSINESS

A Teacher’s View

By Jon Mullen
Mecklenburg County

A month ago, yesterday... I sat at my desk in the slanting dust-mote sun of a school morning, thinking about ordering caterpillars. A teacher had asked. I had a slip from Ward Science for free caterpillars, buried in a pile on my desk. The caterpillar books were ready, and the habitat was done.

A month ago, we talked about germs. And on a whim, I told my kids about this sickness that was spreading in China. The five-year-olds on the carpet nodded sagely to each other when we talked about the importance of hand-washing. The clock spun us to the end of the day, as the fifth graders packed up the experiment and turned in their sheet.

“I need volunteers to help me put the chairs up.” All the hands went up. Later, we stood in the scudding sunlight of carpool, doing what teachers do. We joked with each other and the kids, the little routines that teachers are so adept at recognizing and creating. And between ourselves, we marveled at the rude parents, the cars, the job, and this thing that might mean we had a few days off. The last kid left. The vice-principal pulled her scarf around her. “Mr. Mullen, can you grab the gate on your way out?”

A month ago, today, I was standing in the gym doorway, gloved, ziplocked, and sanitized, ready to walk packets and Chromebooks to the line of cars that had arrived to get materials for ‘distance learning’. A red van pulls around the corner, and I see kids waving wildly in the back. I pick up a clipboard, put on my smile, and grab a Chromebook.

We had spent that morning carefully assembling books, medicines, and other things we figured the kids would need; we sanitized and wiped things down



for each kid. “Do you really think we’ll be out for that long?” Mrs. Smith had asked. “It seems like an awfully long time!” She reached into the cart for another Chromebook.

I walked back toward the gym, turning to wave to the kids. The day was the color of rotting wood. A sort-of dirt-clod silence. Teachers sat on the gym floor, talking about this ‘thing that came out of nowhere’. We did what teachers do in a crisis. We completely abandoned ourselves for the good of our students, and each other. We sat in small groups, joking, feigning terror at being too close. Someone ordered pizza for everyone. I went to get a couple of slices. I walked back into the echo-y gym to hear a teacher, sitting on a milk crate say..... “Well, I got my gloves, hand sanitizer and wipes here just in case....” She held them each up in turn, as the other teachers laughed and applauded.

I had planned to pop popcorn for the kindergartners that day. Instead, I sat, in a drafty gym, as the gray day sledged on. Random doors slamming in the fluorescent-flickered echo of abandoned classrooms. The paper I put outside my door for one of my fifth graders yesterday, was still in my box. I thought about the full halls, the sunlight, sweaty recessed kids, and teachers, like auctioneers trying to focus distracted kids at the fountain. “Trinity! You can’t fill your bottle at the fountain now! Others have to drink. Wait till you get back to the classroom. Gavin’s blue water bottle sits by the drinking fountain, labeled by his mom. I put it in my classroom. He will need it in a couple of days. It is been getting warmer. I look down the flown-bird-empty halls. The eerie pools of turned-off lights in the wrong places, and the acrid smell of chemical-clean. Bulletin boards are strewn with scrawly kid-drawings and writing; carefully curated and tacked up by teachers in hurried-afternoons and pre-kid mornings.

Mrs. Doran had displays from the 100th day of school in Kindergarten. I walk back to my post. The traffic has died down; the vice principal says I can go home.

“See you soon!”, she says with a distracted wave and smile.

As I turn off my lights and close the door, I see my coffee cup sitting on my desk, the eraser on the floor by the Smartboard, and the pile of leftover day objects sitting on my tables. “I should probably wash some of the science equipment in the sink....” I think to myself. “Naah, I’ll get it in the morning.”

A month later.

A month. I’ve forgotten what day it is. The very idea seems like pure snobbery. I watch the shadows crawl across my backyard. The same as they did yesterday, and the day before. The world rages outside, and I am worried about buying groceries. A month later, I laugh when the kindergarten teacher tells the 5-year-old he needs to be wearing pants when he “zooms” this time. A month later I almost cry as I listen to my co-teachers yelling hellos to each other as we sit in our cars in a parking lot...waiting to do a surprise “drive-by” parade for a co-teacher who’s struggling with cancer. I realize I can’t remember the last time I bought gas. Apparently, it’s cheap now. But I don’t need any. I’ve used less than a quarter tank. A month later, I would give my world to dig through a pile to find that yellow slip; or to have kiddos sitting on my blue carpet. Even that kid who I’m generally (okay, always) glad is absent.

A month later, I think about the dishes in the science sink, the popcorn maker I left sitting on the counter, my coffee cup, and the crate of clipboards I hauled to the gym to make it easier for parents to sign for Chromebook forms... And I wonder if I’ll get my clipboards back. I didn’t give it much thought. I’d be back tomorrow. Like I have...every.... day...

Instead, it’s been a month, of phone calls, dizzying updates, emails, and screaming media bombardment. It’s been a supernova of death, sickness, fear, masks, gloves, Isolation, and emptiness. It’s been a world, and nation, spinning out of control.

Suddenly the idea of kids on the carpet becomes terrifying. And I can’t remember the last time I gave or got a hug.

And I feel the uncertain wobble of time. This is beyond my control. All of it. The response, the leaders, the followers, the barrage of information, the barrage of misinformation, the bickering, the sickness, the death, the horror, the emptiness, and the maddening persistence of inconclusiveness. A month later, I wake up, my house for company, and the dogged hues of monotony crawling down my walls, the weight of the day splintering through my blinds.

I’m up.

Now what?

A month later I am a first-year teacher again. I navigate a new world of Canvas, Zoom, logins, invitations, meetings, and digital kids.

Virtual.

Everything is virtual. My world is posting, hosting, and adapting. Adapting is one thing we teachers are good at. We make it work. Even though we feel like our classrooms have become a version of Ikea furniture being put together with bad instructions, and poor materials. And the routines change, they slow down, shift colors, textures, and priorities.

My dog chomping at bees in the slanting afternoon sun becomes the highlight of my day.

And each day, it gets marginally easier. And each day it gets marginally harder. I alternate between boredom, panic, hope, and nostalgia.

The world is closed. We’ll open it in the morning. We’ll get there. We will. For now, though, we live in The World of “When”. ‘When this is over.... next year, when....’

It’s the “when” that keeps me going.

Dawn follows dark. It always does. It’s the way of the world.

Trust me, I am a science teacher.



Ellen Hobson
Licensed Sales Agent

Proverbs 11:28

Thrive Insurance Solutions

**Medicare Supplements, Medicare Advantages,
Medicare Prescription Drug Plans**

(828) 442-9681
551 Burma Rd. W Marion NC
thriveinsolutions@gmail.com



YANCEY SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER

**COME JOIN US FOR LUNCH
SERVED MONDAY THOUGH FRIDAY
11:30-12:00
60 AND OVER EAT FREE**

828-682-6011
**503 MEDICAL CAMPUS DRIVE
BURNSVILLE, NC**

Jon Mullen is a Kindergarten through 5th grade Science Teacher at Myers Park Elementary School, in Charlotte NC. This is his 24th year teaching, and his first year teaching from home.

The Importance of Prayer

By Dr. Tom Walker
McDowell County



We are going to look at several Scriptures in this article to justify how important prayer is in the life of the believer. We will begin with a verse out of Matthew 21:22 which says, “*And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*” Those words of our Lord alone, if there were no other verses in the Bible to verify how important prayer is, would be enough. The greatest sin of our day among believers may very well be prayerlessness, failing to communicate regularly with the Lord Jesus.

Prayer Has a Procuring Power

Matthew 21:22 implies that God is interested in every part of our lives. Note the words “all things.” That means there is no part of our lives that God is not interested in. He wants to provide completely, thoroughly, utterly, and unquestionably.

Coupled with the words “all things” we find another keyword “whatsoever.” “Whatsoever” seems to be an all-inclusive word. God gives, gives, and keeps on giving regarding His born-again children.

James wrote in another place in God’s Word, “*Ye have not because ye ask not*” (James 4:2). There are many provisions we would have if we would only ask God for them. Why do without something important, when we could ask God for what we need and receive it through faith?

Another verse says in Matthew 7:7, “*Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*” Who in their right mind would turn down an opportunity like this promise from a faithful and holy God? I am thoroughly convinced many of us are doing without because we have not asked, sought, and knocked. We must believe that God is going to be true to His Word, acting as the faithful and dependable One.

Prayer Has A Healing Power

James also says, “*Pray for one another that ye may be healed*” (James 5:16). Healing can come to our lives through prayer. I have been a pastor now for some forty-five years. There have been many of my church members who have been sick, yet through the prayers of God’s people, they have recovered.

There was a man in Zion Hill years ago the doctors had about given up on and said he had about a year to live. The sick church member lived many years after the year in which they said he would die. God responded to the cries of His people.

Does God save all the sick every time we ask Him to heal them? No, he does not. There is a will that is higher than ours; that is God’s will. We should pray about healing by giving God our desire to be healed; we should believe He can heal, and then we should leave the healing matter to the Lord. If He wants to take us home through the illness we have, that is O.K. If God wants us to be home with Him, then who are we to say what we want is more important than what He wants.

Some folks think all you need to do is name and claim your healing. That is false because God does not always do what we want to be done when we want it done. We must realize we are to shut up to God’s will.

Jesus prayed on one occasion when the cross was looming before Him in Luke 22:42, “*Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done.*” The human side of Jesus wanted to shun the cross, but His Deity side said, “Not my will, but thine be done.”

Prayer Has an Enlightening Power

We are enlightened through our prayers and the prayers of others. Ephesians 1:16-18 tells us, “*Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling....*”

The Apostle Paul gives mention of the words, “*The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know....*” We pray about a lot of matters concerning ourselves and others, but how often do we pray as the Apostle Paul did in Ephesians 1:16-18? How often do we pray for a greater spirit of wisdom, a greater knowledge of the Lord, and that our eyes of understanding may be more wide open to get a taste of the hope of our calling and the riches of the glory in the saints of God? I dare say not as often as we should.

If you know someone who has too much darkness and needs more light and understanding, why not pray as Paul did in Ephesians 1? You may need to pray this for yourself, for your children or grandchildren, or for fellow church members.

Proverbs 10:13 tells us, “*In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding.*”

Proverbs 16:22 says, “*Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly.*”

Prayer Has A Calming Power

Philippians 4:6-7 says, “*Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*” It is human nature to worry about things that will probably never happen or things that may come out the way that we cannot change. Paul told the church at Philippi, “Be careful for nothing” (v.6). The apostle addresses over-anxious care or what we might call worry.

I am convinced that we need to worry less and do more. If we were doing more, we would worry less.

Instead of worrying, he recommends prayer and supplication. You cannot pray and worry at the same time. One of our great hymns says in its lyrics, “I cast on Him, my every care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.”

If you want an antidote for being disturbed, nervous, uneasy, distraught, or ruffled in spirit, I can recommend a good one. It is the same on Paul recommend-

ed- that being prayer.

When we pray our hears are kept or guarded. It is then that peace overcomes our troubled and agitated hearts; we can experience sweet peace that passes all understanding.

Some people have the philosophy, “Why pray when we can worry.” Instead of having that state of mind, one should say, “Why worry when we can pray.” Prayer commits everything to God and leaves our anxieties, our cares, our concerns with the Lord Jesus.

Peter said it well when under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost he wrote, “*Cast-ing all your care upon him; for he careth for you*” (1 Peter 5:7). Instead of worry-ing about everything and creating ulcers as large as a grapefruit, why not cast your cares upon Christ? The verb tense of the word “casting” in I Peter 5:7 is aorist tense in the Greek New Testament, which speaks of a complete act that occurred in the past. When the Bible uses the word regarding God which says He “careth”, it is present tense which speaks of an ongoing, continual, perpetual caring the Lord has for me and you.

Tom Walker is President of Foothills Baptist Bible College and Pastor of Zion Hill Baptist Church in Marion, NC.

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 1 John 4:7

The hospice you choose makes a difference.
Choose the one with:

- local staff
- two hospice inpatient units
- palliative care in all settings
- grief counseling for any adult
- Kids Path™
- Camp Erin®

Serving Polk, Henderson, Rutherford, and McDowell in NC and
Cherokee, Greenville and Spartanburg in SC
(828) 245-0095 NC (864) 457-9100 SC (800) 218-CARE (2273)

NOW OPEN!!!

A family owned & operated business
(an entity of Buff's Tire & Service)
Located at 303 Burkemont Ave,
Morganton, NC
(across from Freedom Insurance)

We offer multiple services including:

- New Tires
- Brakes
- Alignments
- NC State Inspections
- General Repairs

A Common But Important Animal

By Christy Lowman
Burke County



Hi friends! This month I wanted to talk about an animal that we take for granted. What I mean is, it is a very common animal and sometimes we don’t realize how important it really is to us. We get a lot of what we eat from this animal including yogurt, cheese, milk, ice cream, cottage cheese, beef, beef jerky, hot dogs, hamburgers, steak, the list goes on. This animal is known as the “foster mothers of the human race” because they produce most of the milk we drink. Do you know what this animal is?

If you guessed a cow, you are correct. Cows came to America with Christopher Columbus on his second voyage. Eventually, every family had their own cow until around the 1850s when they started transporting milk by train.

Cows are herbivores, with four chambers in their stomachs. The first chamber, the rumen, holds 50 gallons of half-digested plant food, this is also where cud comes from. Cud is regurgitated, semi-digested food, that comes back up in their mouth from their first chamber stomach. They chew on this for up to eight hours a day. I always like to think a cow is happy and healthy if you see it chewing its cud. If it’s not chewing cud, something is wrong.

The second stomach chamber is called reticulum, this is the part of the stomach that protects the cow from the hazardous material they might accidentally eat. If they eat plastic, nails, pieces of fence, it will stay in this compartment, protecting the cow from the object causing further health problems.

The omasum is the third stomach compartment which acts as a filter. And the last compartment is called abomasum which is a lot like our stomach.

Cows love to eat. They gobble up to forty pounds of food a day and drink as much water as a full bathtub. A standard bathtub holds up to 80 gallons of water! Could you drink that much water a day? Humans are encouraged to drink only half of a gallon of water a day which I find hard to do sometimes.

Cows are very smart animals. They remember who their friends are as well as those who are mean to them. They spend most of their time hanging out with their pals during the day and they stay away from those they don’t like. Cows remember people the same way. They will recall how you have treated them in the past. Cows also recognize up to fifty other members of their herd.

Cows are great problem solvers! They love solving problems and will work hard to find the answer. The problem can be as simple as getting to the greener grass on the other side of the fence. They can figure out cause and effect problems as well like if I raise this handle with my head, water comes out for me to drink. Cows can smell water and odors up to five miles away and can hear both low and high-frequency sounds that we can’t hear.

A cow’s lifespan is twenty years, but most don’t live that long. If a cow has horns you can count the rings on them to estimate how old he/she is.

Not all cows are mean. Some are sweet, gentle, or timid. And all cows are curious! The assumption that the color red makes bulls mad is a myth. The movement of the bullfighter’s cloak is what makes the bull charge. You are also safe to wear the color red around cows; you are not going to get chased because of it, because cows are red/green color blinded!

Cattle have 32 teeth in their mouths but none of these are located in the top front. Instead, they have a rough pad of skin on the top and teeth on the bottom front, along with molars on the sides. Cows also have a long rough, sandpapery tongue.

Mother cows carry their babies inside for 9 months just like we do. If a baby calf gets lost after it is born, a mother has been known to walk many miles to find her baby. Mother cows are very protective, I cannot tell you how many times I have been charged at and ran off by a very protective mother. After a calf is born, I have witnessed the others in the herd come and check the baby out, welcoming it to their family. Mother cows will hide their babies in tall grasses, hay or under trees to keep them safe until they get old enough to hang out with the others.

There are two types of cattle, dairy, and beef. Today, with the help of milking machines, a single dairy cow can produce 25 gallons of milk a day, which is 400 glasses of milk!

Did you realize that cows were so important to us? That we depend on them to survive. Some people think that they are just dumb animals that don’t belong, or that farmers and farming are not important. Did you know that cows were mentioned in the Bible? In Elijah’s time, there was a contest. The heathens sacrificed

a bull to their gods to see if they were real and would make it rain, the gods did not make it rain. God then had Elijah sacrifice a bull to Him and He made it rain, showing that He was the one true God!

Can you think of other things in your life that you might have taken for granted? Or maybe you didn’t realize how important they were to you? It may be even a person. I can think of at least two people that I have taken for granted before. My parents. They kept me fed, in nice clothes, gave me a place to live, took care of me, and told me about Jesus when I was young. I’m sure that you have someone in your life that has taken good care of you that maybe you sometimes forget to say “thank you” to. It is the same way with God. Sometimes, we get mad at Him when things don’t go our way. Sometimes we distance ourselves from Him for no good reason. Maybe we think we can handle a problem all by ourselves without needing His help. Or maybe we don’t realize all the good things He does for us or has blessed us with. You see there are many things in our life, that we take for granted. Did you know that God blesses us each day just by letting us wake up to a new morning? The guarantee of the sun coming up each day is a blessing, The air we get to breathe in is a blessing. The fact that no matter what we do wrong, God will forgive us, when we ask, is a blessing!

Dear Lord, please help us not take You or our daily blessings for granted. Help us be thankful and appreciative of each and everyone that you have blessed us with. We thank you for the animals you have given us to use to help nourish our body and to help us grow. In Jesus’s name, I pray AMEN.

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” Romans 1:20-21

Bibliography
<https://www.badeloftusa.com/ideas/how-much-does-bathtub-hold/>
Kid's Corner - Facts About Cows
18 Fun Facts About Cows! | THATSFARMING.COM
Fun Cow Facts for Kids - Interesting Information about Cattle

Christy Lowman is a Christian author and illustrator that lives in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains with her husband and two children. She enjoys writing and illustrating books for all ages. Some of her short stories are published with Guideposts and HCI.. Christy gives all the glory to God in everything she does. A portion of every book sold from the Small Bible Character Series will be donated to battle human trafficking. If you enjoy her books, 'like' her author page on Facebook and let her know! You can buy her books at https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&field-author=Christy+Lowman&search-alias=books&text=Christy+Lowman&sort=relevancerank You can reach her at <https://www.facebook.com/authorChristyLowman/> or christyssoaps@yahoo.com.



Beam
FUNERAL SERVICE
& CREMATORY

2170 Rutherford Rd. • Marion, NC 28752
828-559-8111 • Fax 828-559-8112
www.beamfuneralservice.com
beamfuneralservice@gmail.com



3/10 mile North of Walmart

DR•MINI STORAGE

14307 Hwy 226 • Spruce Pine, NC

Camper & Boat Storage

828-260-3396 • 828-766-4585
www.drstoragenc.com

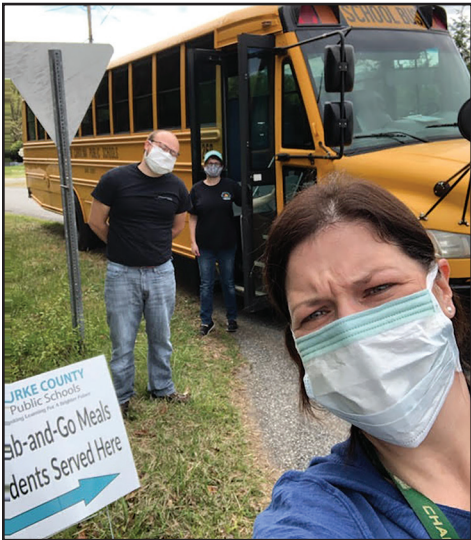
Burke County Public Schools

BCPS Receives Grants for Masks

By Cheryl Shuffler
Burke County

Burke County Public Schools has received two grants, totaling \$6,000, to help purchase masks for the district. Each grant was for \$3,000; one was from the Community Foundation of Burke and the other from Duke Energy Foundation. All Burke County Public School employees are wearing their masks while they are working. This precaution, as well as social distancing and staying at least six feet apart from each other, are measures district employees are taking to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.





Burke County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Larry Putnam said, "I realize wearing a mask is awkward for some people, but it could be the difference in saving their life and others. It is one of the new normals we are having to get accustomed to during this time. I want to thank our head school nurse Miranda Michaels for securing the masks and organizing the mask distribution and for Director of Student Services Dr. Mike Swan for his work in securing the grants. Our goal is to eventually equip all BCPS employees, not just essential workers, with masks, as well as distribute them to their family members and eventually provide them to all of our students. We have a standing weekly order with a local manufacturer for the masks and are grateful for these grants to help us provide this valuable piece of protection."



Cheryl Shuffler is the Public Relations Officer for the Burke County Public School System.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Think Spring 2020



Grassy Creek CLOTHING

12451 Hwy 226 S., Spruce Pine (828) 766-7502

8:30am-5:30pm M.T.W.S. | Closed Sunday
Thursday & Friday 8:30-8:00 | -Go to Church www.grassycreekclothing.com



Visit Buck Stove



Buck Stove
200 Ethan Allen Drive
Spruce Pine, N.C. 28777

Hours of Operation
Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:00pm

Wood and Gas Stoves
Bob Timberlake Outdoor Living
Buck's Tiny Houses
Height Adjustable Desk

www.buckstove.com



Crossword

Crossword 243

ACROSS

1 make sweet ____, sing many songs (Isaiah 23:16)
6 sheep, and cheese from ____ milk for David (2 Sam 17:29)
9 to explore and ____ out the country and overthrow it (1 Chr 19:3)
12 he burned the bones of the king of Edom into ____ (Amos 2:1) KJV
13 followed by ____ of Gilead, who led Israel twenty-two years (Judg 10:3)
14 fish, and all manner of ____, and sold on the Sabbath (Neh 13:16) KJV
15 called ten of his servants and gave them ten ____ (Luke 19:13)
16 he nullifies the vow that ____ her or the rash promise (Num 30:8)
18 The wings of the ____ flap joyfully (Job 39:13)
20 lo, the ____, which they saw in the east (Matt 2:9)
21 "Stop wailing," Jesus said. ____ is not dead but asleep (Luke 8:52)
22 Peter, however, got up and ____ to the tomb (Luke 24:12)
23 As a door turns on its ____ (Prov 26:14)
26 Is this ____ to be vindicated? (Job 11:2)
28 I will destroy the king who is in the Valley of ____ (Amos 1:5)
30 and now ____ greater than Jonah is here (Matt 12:41)
31 he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole ____ (Gal 4:1)
33 a follower of the Way, which they call a ____ (Acts 24:14)
34 and some of them they shall ____ and persecute (Luke 11:49) KJV
37 Nor ____ for your journey, neither two coats (Matt 10:10) KJV
39 also learn to maintain good works for necessary ____ (Titus 3:14)
40 Of the oaks of Bashan have they made thine ____ (Ezek 27:6) KJV
41 What he trusts in is fragile; what he ____ on is a spider's web (Job 8:14)
43 give God a tenth of your mint, ____ and all other (Luke 11:42)
44 Thou art my beloved Son; in ____ I am well pleased (Luke 3:22) KJV
46 I will repair its broken ____, restore its ruins (Amos 9:11)
50 His name shall ____ for ever (Ps 72:17)
52 opposite to windward side

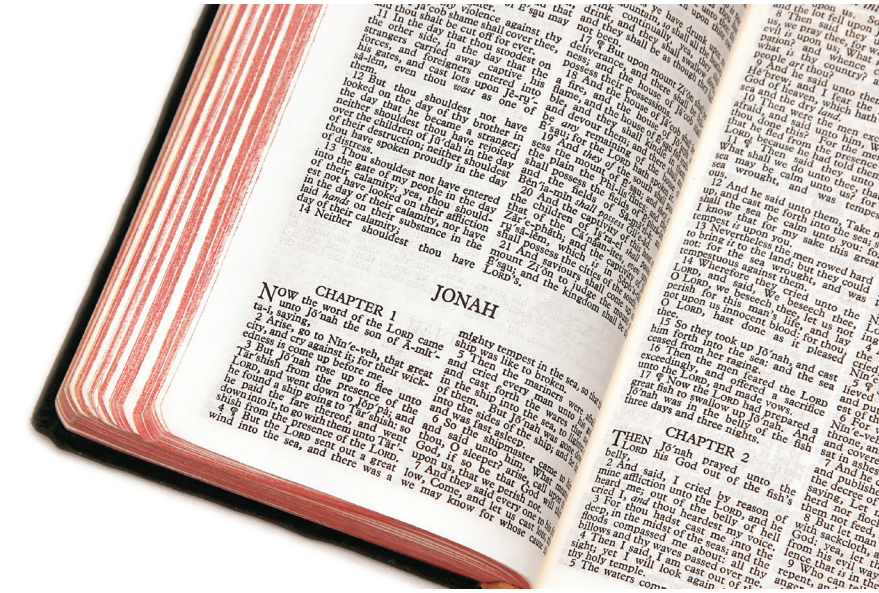
(naut.) (Acts 27:16)
53 now also the ____ is laid unto the root of the trees (Matt 3:10) KJV
54 to ____ their own desires, they will gather around them (2 Tim 4:3)
56 With your help I can ____ against a troop (Ps 18:29)
58 a ____ cord is not quickly broken (Eccl 4:12) KJV
61 snake (Isa 30:6)
62 they will ____ out of his kingdom everything that causes sin (Matt 13:41)
63 son of Seth (Gen 4:26) KJV
64 we spend our years as a ____ that is told (Ps 90:9)
65 wherewith the ____ number of them (Num 3:48) KJV
66 left of it until the morning, and it ____ worms, and stank (Exodus 16:20)
67 because it is defiled, it is ruined, beyond all ____ (Mic 2:10)
DOWN
2 Elijah's successor (2 Kings 2:9)
3 Smite the ____ of the door, that the posts may shake (Amos 9:1) KJV
4 the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, ____, Zepho (Gen 36:11)
5 He fulfills the ____ of those who fear him (Ps 145:19)
6 and a quarter of a ____ of seed pods for five shekels (2 Kings 6:25)
7 fine ____ have been poured upon me (Ps 92:10)
8 they will ____ like a woman in labor (Isa 13:8)
9 Jesus found a young donkey and ____ upon it (John 12:14)
10 in return for all the joy we have in the ____ of our God (1 Thess 3:9)
11 He who testifies to these things says, "____, I am coming soon." (Rev 22:20)
13 James son of Zebedee and his brother ____ (Matt 4:21)
14 ____ them before God against quarreling (2 Tim 2:14)
15 Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the ____ high God (Heb 7:1)
17 what is a man profited, if he shall ____ the whole (Matt 6:26)
19 Moses took the ____ and oxen and gave them to the Levites (Num 7:6)
24 Righteousness ____ before him and prepares the way (Ps 85:13)
25 silver in two bags, with two ____ of clothing (2 Kings 5:23)
27 I will give you the ____ of the kingdom of heaven

1	2	3	4	5			6	7	8			9	10	11
	12					13					14			
15						16				17				
18					19			20						
21				22					23			24		25
26			27				28	29				30		
			31			32					33			
34	35	36			37				38		39			
40						41				42		No.243		
43				44	45				46			47	48	49
50			51					52				53		
			54			55		56			57			
58		59					60			61				
62					63					64				
65				66					67					
COPYRIGHT 2019 BIBLEWORDGAMES.COM ALL RIGHTS RESERVED														

(Matt 16:19)
28 and ____ to be desired to make one wise (1,4)
(Gen 3:6)
29 whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the ____ is taken away (2 Cor 3:16)
32 killed some twenty men in an area of about half an ____ (1 Sam 14:14)
33 Xerxes reigned from his royal throne in the citadel of ____ (Est 1:2)
34 no remedy for your ____, no healing for you (Jer 30:13)
35 we ____, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia (Acts 27:2) KJV
36 Tell the Israelites to bring you ____ heifer (1,3)
(Num 19:2)
38 We have ____ unto you, and ye have not danced (Matt 11:17) KJV
42 raise, lift (Heb 11:19)
44 But as God is ____, our word toward you (2 Cor 1:18)
45 The Israelites are stubborn, like a stubborn ____ (Hos 4:16)
47 Neither do men light a ____,

and put it under a bushel (Matt 5:15) KJV
48 and have set limits he cannot ____ (Job 14:5)
49 "I am the ____, " Samuel replied (1 Sam 9:19)
51 Show me the coin ____ for paying the tax (Matt 22:19)
52 The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the ____ (Gen.48:16) KJV
55 I wish I could be with you now and change my ____ (Gal 4:20)
57 And ____ gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air (Gen 2:20)
58 "We have here only five loaves of bread and ____ fish," (Matt 14:17)
59 Their breastplates were fiery ____, dark blue, and yellow (Rev 9:17)
60 Shemed who built Ono and ____ with its surrounding villages (1 Chron 8:12)

Solution on page 14



New Dimensions School

By David Burleson
Burke County



The New Dimensions School and all schools in North Carolina are experiencing a new way of teaching and learning. For the first time, all students are learning remotely. Our staff at New Dimensions is doing everything possible to assist our students and families as we continue remote learning. I am personally appreciative of the outstanding work of our entire staff, students, and parents during these challenging times.

We began remote learning at New Dimensions on Monday, March 16. As a staff, we continue learning how to best meet the needs of our students in the virtual world. I have faith in our staff to meet the needs of the students we serve. We know that until at least May 15 we will be working together on the new adventure. While there continues to be uncertainty, I know that educators can make this work. Our staff will continue to work remotely and do the job that needs to be done for our students. Our goal is to be compassionate, flexible, and understanding. We will continue to rely on each other and ask for help when we need it. As we move forward during these uncertain times, our staff will continue to be a calming and encouraging voice for our students and families. We will continue to show our Warrior family that we care and will do the best we can to teach remotely. Our staff will use the resources available to engage and involve our students. Our goal is to set reasonable expectations for our students. We must communicate that this is not a vacation or snow days, but an opportunity to continue learning in a different way.

We all realize that this will not be easy. We all chose to be educators because we enjoy being around people. Our students are why we do what we do. Not being with our students is unnatural, to say the least. In this new normal, we will still be motivated and encouraged by making a difference for students. We can take solace in the fact that as an educator we can be a positive and reassuring voice for our students. Educators can supply students with hope and encouragement.

The staff, students, and families of New Dimensions have focused throughout the year on providing encouragement and support to others in our community. Our school has always risen to the occasion when others needed help. From can food collections for local food banks to providing presents for children at Christmas, New Dimensions has always stepped up. This time has been no different. Under the leadership of teachers, Aaron Mirtsching and Dan Ishuin, the New Dimensions STEM Club has used our 3D printers to make over 900 straps for facemasks. These straps have been donated to health care workers in Burke and Caldwell Counties along with other places around the country. Aaron Mirtsching says, "New Dimensions has always sought out ways to give back to the community. Even though our doors to the school are locked, the STEM club is still reaching out to help others in the community. The STEM club has dedicated their 3D printers to print face mask straps. These straps hold the elastic off the ears so that it is a little more comfortable. At this point, we have made and donated over 900 straps! The straps are not just helping our community. We have sent out straps to Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee, Georgia, Texas, to the coast of North Carolina, and even to an Air Force base in Jordan! It is awesome to know that our little school is making a large impact."

There is no indication when schools in North Carolina will reopen. When we do reopen, I know that our staff will be prepared. Our staff continues to provide feedback on the work our students have completed and allows our students to show them what they have learned over this time. We are also beginning to plan for next year just like we would during any normal year.

As a school, we will continue to be as flexible as possible, do the best we can, and do all we can to be a partner with each of our Warrior families. We will get through this together.

We continue to pray for our community and especially for those directly impacted by the coronavirus.

David Burleson is the Director of the New Dimensions Charter School in Burke County.

Check out our Website-www.brcnews.com
And find us on Facebook

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 1 John 4:18

Jeep FREEDOM DAYS



NEW 2020 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Sahara 4X4

Turbo eTorque Engine, Sky One-Touch POWER TOP, Leather Seating

**LOADED!
Don't Let This One
Get Away! Great Deal!**



NEW 2020 Jeep Gladiator Sport 4X4

3.6 Liter V-6, Automatic, 17" Aluminum Wheels, Remote Keyless Entry, Power Windows

**MSRP \$40,240...
Call For Best Deal!**



NEW 2020 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Rubicon 4X4

Safety Group, Body Color Hard Top, Advance Safety Group, Leather

**LOADED!! BEST DEAL
OF THE YEAR!!**



44 Worley Road
Marion, NC 28752

(828) 559-9014



Laser Therapy

- Promotes Active Lifestyle
- 95% Success Rate
- Improves Natural Healing
- Affordable
- Scientifically Proven
- Safe and Effective

A POWERFUL TOOL THAT HEALS

**We Are Open, Taking New Appointments,
Following all CDC Guidelines**



Natural Health Care
Solutions for Your Life

- CHIROPRACTIC
- HEALTH COACHING
- LASER THERAPY

Burnsville, NC • 828-682-6157 • 800-772-7955
cruzlifecenter.com

PruittHealth, Committed to Caring since 1969



When you and your loved one need home health care, PruittHealth Home Health is ready with a skilled team that combines expertise, state-of-the-art technologies, and deeply rooted commitment to deliver the best in home health care.

When you return home from the hospital or long-term inpatient care, or just need skilled care at home, our home health team is ready to help you move along the path to optimum health and wellness.

Our team of skilled experts coordinate care, providing:

- Skilled nursing services
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Speech therapy
- Medical social services
- Home health aides

We use advanced electronic charting systems to track progress and treatments in real time, resulting in better care in your own home. To ensure the best possible care, we focus on educating both our patients and families on the personalized care pathway that is tailored to their needs.



PruittHealth.com

**Serving Avery, Mitchell, Yancey,
and surrounding counties.**

**PruittHealth Home Health (Avery)
828-733-1550**

**PruittHealth Home Health (Mitchell)
828-688-3421**

**PruittHealth Home Health (Yancey)
828-682-7825**