As you read this our election will have ended or be close to ending. Many of us have concerns the land of the free and home of the brave may quickly become an America we pine for. Let’s not lose faith in our God and redeemer. The saint of God has something greater to celebrate for November 2020, may I turn your hearts’ attention to Thanksgiving. Not just food, family, and fellowship; though they are necessary. May I have your attention as I share with you four traits of a biblical Thanksgiving? Notice with me…

First, Thanksgiving should cause us to realize God created us for worship and thanksgiving. He created us to honor Him by giving Him thanks. Being Thankful for grace in both who God is and His actions on our behalf; in creation, redemption, and daily sustenance of our lives.

We see this more clearly in Romans chapter 1 where we are brought face to face with what’s gone wrong with the world. The apostle Paul gives us a glimpse of our misapplication of thanksgiving in the created order. Romans 1:21 “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

Part of what Adam and Eve were created to do is honor God by being thankful. Likewise, part of our existence is to honor God by being thankful and enjoying the privilege to express gratitude to Him. We possess a knowledge of God, a knowledge that leads us to thanksgiving. We are reminded by Romans 1; man has inherited a spirit of unthankfulness. Satan had an obvious lack of Thanksgiving and he passed it along to us through Adam and Eve. This is so painfully true. We not only fail to be thankful but we also often fail to get the balance right between the physical and the spiritual. Let’s call them “hyper-spirituality” and “hyper-physicality.” Hyper-physicality is well-practiced in 21st-century Western society. We may know it is found in many of the so-called “spiritual” types. Where we are prone to reject God’s physical goodness out of fear that appreciation for it will somehow detract from our thanksgiving of spiritual blessings. Too often we fail to get the proportions right. Only through the Lord Jesus Christ can we find a balance that is described like this: Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.

Second, Thanksgiving involves confessing we have failed miserably in all areas of our lives. Paul, when he wrote to the Corinthian church, wrote to them that the Lord Jesus delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread: (24) And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: This is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.”

Third, Thanksgiving testifies that the saint is saved by grace and through faith in Jesus alone, we are redeemed from an unthankful heart, and the eternal penalty of hell. Accompanying our salvation is to enjoy the pleasure of eternal life of thankfulness toward God the Father as an example for us.

Third, Thanksgiving understands Jesus entered into our thankless world, He lived in flawless love of his Father, and died on our behalf for our lack of Thanksgiving. It is Jesus, who has manifested the perfect life of thankfulness. Here are some texts where Jesus models Thanksgiving. Matthew 11:25 [also Luke 10:21]: “At that time” [note the context of unrepentant and unthankful “cities where most of his mighty works had been done,” verse 20] ‘Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.”

Matthew 15:36 [also Mark 8:6]: “And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.” [See also John 6:11 and John 6:23 which refers to the location as “the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks”]

1 Corinthians 11:23–24: “For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: (24) And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.”

Jesus is not only God in the flesh but also the quintessential role model for a thankful human. Jesus not only died to forgive our sin but also lived the perfect life of thankfulness. Here are a few instances of His thanksgiving. Matthew 26:26–29: “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread: (26) And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.”

The Inspiring Word

By Terry Cheek
McDowell County

As you read this our election will have ended or be close to ending. Many of us have concerns the land of the free and home of the brave may quickly become an America we pine for. Let’s not lose faith in our God and redeemer. The saint of God has something greater to celebrate for November 2020, may I turn your hearts’ attention to Thanksgiving. Not just food, family, and fellowship; though they are necessary. May I have your attention as I share with you four traits of a biblical Thanksgiving? Notice with me…

First, Thanksgiving should cause us to realize God created us for worship and thanksgiving. He created us to honor Him by giving Him thanks. Being Thankful for grace in both who God is and His actions on our behalf; in creation, redemption, and daily sustenance of our lives.

We see this more clearly in Romans chapter 1 where we are brought face to face with what’s gone wrong with the world. The apostle Paul gives us a glimpse of our misapplication of thanksgiving in the created order. Romans 1:21 “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

Part of what Adam and Eve were created to do is honor God by being thankful. Likewise, part of our existence is to honor God by being thankful and enjoying the privilege to express gratitude to Him. We possess a knowledge of God, a knowledge that leads us to thanksgiving. We are reminded by Romans 1; man has inherited a spirit of unthankfulness. Satan had an obvious lack of Thanksgiving and he passed it along to us through Adam and Eve. This is so painfully true. We not only fail to be thankful but we also often fail to get the balance right between the physical and the spiritual. Let’s call them “hyper-spirituality” and “hyper-physicality.” Hyper-physicality is well-practiced in 21st-century Western society. We may know it is found in many of the so-called “spiritual” types. Where we are prone to reject God’s physical goodness out of fear that appreciation for it will somehow detract from our thanksgiving of spiritual blessings. Too often we fail to get the proportions right. Only through the Lord Jesus Christ can we find a balance that is described like this: Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord; for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.

Third, Thanksgiving testifies that the saint is saved by grace and through faith in Jesus alone, we are redeemed from an unthankful heart, and the eternal penalty of hell. Accompanying our salvation is to enjoy the pleasure of eternal life of thankfulness toward God the Father as an example for us.

Third, Thanksgiving understands Jesus entered into our thankless world, He lived in flawless love of his Father, and died on our behalf for our lack of Thanksgiving. It is Jesus, who has manifested the perfect life of thankfulness. Here are some texts where Jesus models Thanksgiving. Matthew 11:25 [also Luke 10:21]: “At that time” [note the context of unrepentant and unthankful “cities where most of his mighty works had been done,” verse 20] ‘Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.”

Matthew 15:36 [also Mark 8:6]: “And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.” [See also John 6:11 and John 6:23 which refers to the location as “the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks”]

1 Corinthians 11:23–24: “For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: (24) And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.”

Jesus is not only God in the flesh but also the quintessential role model for a thankful human. Jesus not only died to forgive our sin but also lived the perfect life of thankfulness toward God the Father as an example for us.

Fourth, Thanksgiving testifies that the saint is saved by grace and through faith in Jesus alone, likewise, we are redeemed from an unthankful heart, and the eternal penalty of hell. Accompanying our salvation is to enjoy the pleasure of...
PURCHASE clothing, household goods, furniture, jewelry, and more today to help support the children of Crossnore.

BLAIR FRALEY
sales store

100 DAR Drive | Crossnore, NC 28616
(828) 733-4228 | www.crossnore.org/sales-store
Contents

In Every Issue

Life Lessons - p. 9
Your Government - p. 32

“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 (12)

AUTOMOBILES - Dealers
Buchanan Young (35)
Jim Armstrong (20)
John Green Chrysler (23)
Marion Chrysler Dodge (36)
Spruce Pine Chevrolet (19)

AUTOMOBILES - Repair
B & J Auto Supply (18)
John’s Precision Auto Body (36)

AUTOMOBILES - Tires
Buck Tire & Service (29)
McCabe Tire & Service (9)
Spruce Pine Tire (12)

CHURCHES
Altagrass Baptist (4)
Bear Creek Baptist (4)
Berry Chapel Baptist (4)
Burksport Baptist (4)
Faith Fellowship (4)
First Baptist Spruce Pine (4)
Great Hope Seventh Adventist (4)
Landis Orthodox Presbyterian (4)
Morganton Seventh 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)

CHIROPRACTIC
Cruz Chiropractic (5)

COLLEGE
Maryland Tech (7)
McDowell Tech (39)

CPA
Jannie Miller (8)

DENTIST
Scott Murphy (14)

DSS
Mitchell DSS (23)

EVENTS
Catawba River Baptist Assoc. (31)
Crossnore School (2)
First Baptist Church (30)
Freedom Life (5)
North Carolina Baptist Aging (29)
Tancey Baptist Assoc. (14)

FINANCIAL PLANNING
Retirement Resource Management (16)

FLOORING/CABINETS
Carolina Flooring/Cabinets (10)

FUNERAL SERVICE
Beam Funeral Service (25)
Heritage Funeral Home (10)
Sossaman’s Funeral Home (20)

FURNITURE
Buck Store (22)
Peoples Furniture (35)

HEALTH CARE
Carolina Home Care (34)
Pruitt Health Care (40)

HOSPICE
Hospice and Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge, Inc (19)
Hospice of Rutherford (31)
Compassionate Care of Western North Carolina (18)

HOUSING
Clayton (26)

INSURANCE
Eben Insurance (31)
Farrer Insurance (27)
Ken Day Farm Bureau (27)
LifeStore Insurance (35)
McDowell Farm Bureau (33)
Miller Insurance Group (11)
Mitchell Co. Farm Bureau (33)
Premier Insurance (21)
Thrive Insurance (22)

ORTHODONTICS
Small & Martin Orthodontics (29)

PAWN
Mountaineer Pawn Shop (18)

PLUMBING/HEATING
Burleson Plumbing & Heating (9)
Benjamin Franklin Plumbing (23)

REALTORS
Whitson Realty (35)

REHABILITATION/MEDICAL
Brian Center (6)

RESTAURANTS
Bantam Chef (9)
Big Lynn Lodge (7)
Bubba’s Good Eats (14)

DT’S (37)
Western Sizzlin (34)
RETAIL
Grassy Creek Clothing (13)
Radio Shack (30)
STORAGE
DR Storage (36)
TREE SERVICE
Ray’s Tree Service (24)

www.brcnews.com November 2020 - Blue Ridge Christian News page 3
Church Directory

Landis Orthodox Presbyterian Church
4979 US 221
Maryville, NC 28757
(828)-765-7400
www.landischurch.org

Elder Mike Cloy
opcmikecloy@gmail.com

Sunday School 10:00 AM
Worship Service 11:00 AM
Fellowship Meal Following Worship
Thursday Bible Study & Prayer 6:30pm

Beech Creek Baptist Church
327 Bear Creek Road
Bakersville, NC 28705
www.bearcreekbaptistchurch.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...”

Grassy Creek Baptist Church
793 Old NC 226 Hwy
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
828-765-4620
www.grassycreekbc.org

Sunday School 10:00am
Morning Worship 11:00am
Sunday evening 6:30pm
Wednesday Worship: J.M. (Jesus and Me) 6:30pm
Mid-week-worship 7:30pm

“Thank Mitchell County may know Christ!”

The Bridge Church of WNC
207 PineNedge Avenue
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
www.bridgewnc.org

Pastors - Tom & Tammy Anglin
Sunday Service 10:30AM
Wednesday Service 7:30PM
Church Office M-F
9:00AM-3:00PM
“House of Tri County Christian School”

Our mission is to impact the Body of Christ in our area in order to see the
good of God transform our community, state, nation and world.
(See John 12:12)

Morganton Seventh-day Adventist Church
2187 Jamestown Road
Morganton, NC 28655
828-584-9212
Pastor Steve Biltz
Sabbath (Saturday)
Bible Study - 9:30 am
Sabbath Worship Service - 11:00 am
Vegetarian Buffet after church

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
2396 Eola Road
Morganton, NC 28655
828-437-4382
www.pleasanthillbc.org
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”

Altapass Baptist Church
3631 Altapass Hwy
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
828-765-6680
www.altapassbaptistchurchccv.org

Dr. Marcus R. Benfield
Sunday School - 10:00am
Worship - 11:00am
Sunday Evening - 7:00pm
Sunday Youth Program - 7:00pm
1st & 3rd Sunday (Conducts for Christ ages 5-11)
3rd & 4th Sunday (Teen Discovry ages 12-18)
Wednesday - 7:00pm

“Christ-Centered, Bible Believing Church”

Burkemont Baptist Church
4665 Burkemont Rd.
Morganton, NC 28655
828-437-3257
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

First Baptist Church of Spruce Pine
125 Tappan Street
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
828-765-4911
www.sprucepinebfc.com
www.sprucepinebc.org

Dr. Rocky Branch
Senior Pastor

Sunday School - 9:30 am
Sunday Worship - 10:45 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
2507 US Hwy 70 E
Morganton, NC 28655
828-475-2040
Pastor Barry Malhorney
Sabbath (Saturday)
Bible Study: 10:00am

Vegetarian Buffet after church

“Christ-Centered, Bible Believing 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!
"I should serve my country": Amy Coney Barrett's courage and our best service to our nation

The Senate Judiciary Committee has completed its hearings on President Trump's nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. Yesterday, the senators made their final remarks and heard witnesses testify about her character and qualifications. The American Bar Association, which rates federal judges, noted that it has found Judge Barrett to be "well qualified," it's the highest rating.

Since Republicans hold a twelve-to-ten majority, the committee is expected to approve her nomination when it votes on October 22. This would set up a vote on the Senate floor the week of October 26. Since Republicans hold the majority in the Senate, her confirmation is widely expected.

How a blank notepad made headlines

Judge Amy Coney Barrett is Catholic and obviously a woman. Both facts make her nomination noteworthy: only 22 percent of Americans are Catholic; only five of the 119 Supreme Court justices in American history have been women. If confirmed by the Senate, she will become the youngest Supreme Court justice since 1991 and the first mother with school-age children to serve on our nation's highest court.

She did not achieve her remarkable success through family connections or wealth but through hard work and a passion for excellence. This fact is worthy of reflection as evidence of our country's founding creed that "all men are created equal."

In my lifetime, I have seen presidents who came from families of wealth (John F. Kennedy, George H. W. Bush, George W. Bush, and Donald Trump). But I have also seen presidents who came from humble beginnings (Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan). One rose to prominence through military service (Dwight Eisenhower). Two were raised by single mothers (Bill Clinton and Barack Obama).

Judge Barrett is especially known for her brilliant intellect. At one point, Texas Sen. John Cornyn stated, "You know most of us to have multiple notebooks and notes and books and things like that in front of us. Can you hold up what you've been referring to in answering our questions?" She held up a blank notepad that was sitting in front of her.

She knew that the confirmation process would be "really difficult," but Barrett said she decided to accept the president's nomination to serve: "I'm not the only person who can do this job, but I was asked, and it would be difficult for anyone. So why should I say someone else should do the difficulty? If the difficulty is the only reason to say no, I should serve my country."

"Everybody can be great!"

President John F. Kennedy declared in 1962, "We choose to go to the Moon so that the human being will not stop searching and discovering. Nobody who can do this job, but I was asked, and it would be difficult for anyone. So why should I say someone else should do the difficulty? If the difficulty is the only reason to say no, I should serve my country."

He explained: "You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agrees to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You can do this without any second [law] of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. You can be that servant."

No one in American history typified this fact more than the man historians rank as our greatest president.

President John F. Kennedy declared in 1962, "We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills." Doing things because "they are hard" is "the best of our energies and skills" is especially urgent in these difficult days.

The good news is that, as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated so eloquently, "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve."

He said: "I was in a big life transition and I needed help in dealing with stress. I realized that this is accountable for 75% to 95% of all illness. My treatments consisted of mainly laser treatment and micro current cranial therapy to help calm the brain. I drive 5-6 hours to come to the Life Center because I know that I will get the care I need every single time I come."

Actual testimony from a patient at the Life Center.

---

Jim Denison Ph.D speaks and writes on cultural and contemporary issues. His daily column is distributed to more than 113,000 subscribers in 208 countries. See more on the website www.denisonforum.org. Copyrighted and printed by permission from Denison Forum.
“Race” Is A God Thing!

By Maynard Taylor
Burke County

First, a little background. We all know this but seldom, if ever, think of it. God created Earth as the only planet in the universe that sustains life. It is the ONLY planet that has oxygen, the right temperature range, water, sunshine, and ground nutrients to sustain all races of humankind, all animals, all plant life, and all sea life. So, for the record, as of this date and after centuries of exploring the universe, no other planet has been discovered that would support life! The fact that God states He knew you before (Jeremiah 1:05) you were in your Mother’s womb, He knew you while (Romans 8:29) you were in your Father’s womb, and He knows you after you were born (Matthew 10:30 and Luke 12:07) to the point He knows the number of hairs in your head. The good news is if you are on earth in any Country, of any “Race”, of any Color or any Language it is because God wanted you here! We should be forever grateful that God provided us the opportunity to experience living. “Earth” is the only planet that supports humankind’s existence!

Second, the only people responsible for you being here are your biological parents and God. I had nothing to do with you being born. You had nothing to do with me being born. None of us had anything to do with another’s stature, color, race, mental capabilities, where you were born, when or which century you were born, or which Country you were born except God and your parents. The world has five major Races. The Alaska Native, White/Caucasian, Negro/Black, Mongolian/Asian, and Australoid. Science informs us that each of us would be classified in one of these five (5) races. The old cliché of “You don’t get to choose your kinfolks” is an accurate truism. So, is it not dumb and useless for us to attempt to hold one another “hostage” because we did not create ourselves?!! Our God and earthly parents did! Therefore, if you do not like your race, color, or the Country you live in, you should not blame others. Have a Heart-to-Heart talk with your parents and/or God.

Third, who is responsible for continual racial unrest? Four key things keep racism in the forefront.

Number one on the list is Government elected officials. Including Local Cities, Counties, States, and Federal positions. They help create the racial tension and unrest so they can promise to fix it if You elect them to office. Some of the fixes cost billions of dollars and the citizens get the brunt of it through taxes. They add it to our debt which is now over 23 Trillion dollars. The history is there. They have been trying to fix it for 150 plus years. Each elected official when he/she is sworn into office with one hand on the Bible repeats the “Oath of Office and must sign it before witnesses”. They swear to uphold the Constitution of the US of America so help them, God. Now how many elected officials who swore to uphold the Constitution and amendments have broken their oath in the last six months? My guess is most of them. Most of the racial unrest is the result of elected officials creating racism for their own personal political gain. Take note that racial tension is always higher during the election period. If government leaders create the situation just to attempt to win votes by promising they are going to fix it. Well, they cannot fix it. It is a “God Thing” and all they do is create havoc, spend a lot of money and the taxpayer pays the bill. If an elected official or candidate decides they can exploit “Racism” to enhance popularity, power, or increase their odds of winning, they will do it and care less who they hurt during the process. Our elected officials are the leaders in “Reverse” discrimination. This election year, some political hopefuls are promising if they are elected, they will tax us 70%. That leaves only 30% for you to get an education, get married, raise your children, build your dream house, buy cars, pay tithe, retirement, etc. This must be the new modern-day form of slavery. Your slave master is the government and we are the slaves. There is no honor, respect, or caring with these money-hungry, power-grabbing politicians.

Number two is the news media. I hope you are aware of rating systems for print, Radio & TV. The higher the ratings in the electronic media the higher the price of the commercials. The higher the circulation numbers of a newspaper, the higher the price of the ad. The media has lost the art of reporting core news. They omit or delete many facts. Instead of true news you get opinionized news, indoctrinated news delivered in a manner to earn higher ratings. They twist the facts into their own political favors. Many times, they ignore the facts completely or person(s). Consider the officer(s) who is responding to a gunfight with the people on his area they patrol and fight crime!! A/They know who the repeat offenders are. B/They know which officers and peacekeepers on their station have the responsibility of law enforcement knows three ABC’S about the person(s). 1/They know which officers and peacekeepers on their area they patrol and fight crime!! 2/They know which officers and peacekeepers on their area they patrol and fight crime!! 3/They know which officers and peacekeepers on their area they patrol and fight crime!!

Number three is the “hate” attitude. An indisputable truth is you cannot teach and practice “HATE” year after year and expect “PEACE” to follow. It will not happen!! Every word from our mouth and every action we perform can promote Hate and/or Peace. When we give an eight-year-old child of any race a banner to display for any reason that promotes one group/race of people over another, you
are teaching and practicing hate that will last a lifetime. What happens when your child was told to hate his/her best friend at school during a protest rally? Different races have been around forever. God intended for different races to populate the earth. Race origin is a “God Thing”? To hate each other because of race is to question God’s authority and purpose for creating mankind. Hate will not go away if our words and actions continue to teach it.

Number four is the “I have had enough” attitude: Which includes but is not limited to favoritism, unfairness, freedom of speech, taking our rights away, the restraint element, changing amendments to favor one group while taking rights from others in the process. American Citizens are keenly aware just some Americans have the right to protest, free speech and the right to march and burn cars, and businesses, to loot stores and they keep their hero statues while destroying others. While the citizens are forced to accept and pay for laws that are disobeying the Ten Commandments and against our beliefs is certainly a reproach to man and God. We have such a lop-sided, unfair, and grave unfairness leadership in America that some of our lawmakers should be charged with Constitutional Treason. The Constitution should be followed as written and intended, not to interpret to favor political parties or power control. Good-hearted, hardworking Americans, who usually do not complain, have had enough! Many of us who have been quiet too long will begin to exercise our “Freedom of Speech”? Now ask yourself this question. Who has brought “Racism” & “Civil War Monuments” to the forefront? It was not your neighbor, nor your local Supermarket, nor your favorite fashion store, or Church, or your place of employment. How much do you know about the “Civil War”? Here is a short recap. (Source: Statista – Number of Military fatalities in all major wars involving the United States from 1775 to 2019.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE WAR</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF AMERICAN CASUALTIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THE GULF WAR</td>
<td>1990-1991</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIETNAM WAR</td>
<td>1965-1973</td>
<td>58,209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOREAN WAR</td>
<td>1950-1953</td>
<td>36,516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORLD WAR II</td>
<td>1935-1945</td>
<td>404,399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORLD WAR I</td>
<td>1917-1918</td>
<td>116,516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPANISH AMERICAN WAR</td>
<td>1898</td>
<td>2,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMERICAN CIVIL WAR</td>
<td>1861-1865</td>
<td>620,000 TOTAL CASUALTIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEXICAN AMERICAN WAR</td>
<td>1846-1848</td>
<td>13,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAR OF 181</td>
<td>1812-1815</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY</td>
<td>1775-1783</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please take note. All the six wars combined after the American civil war totals 6,183,344 American casualties. Of these, 20,000 were african Americans. The American civil war had 620,000 American casualties which is more than all six wars combined. (Several historical reports list an additional 400,000 missing in action which would put the final total number over one million American casualties.)

If this is the accurate number, then the total number of American casualty in the American civil war is more than all the other wars combined to date. This undisputable information demands the following questions.

1. Does this greatest loss of American casualties of all wars not deserve our respect, honor, and remembrance?
2. Is this war not deserving and worthy of the statues that were placed in our cities, counties, and communities decades ago?
3. Since the constitution and amendments protect such historical artifacts and guarantee their continuance, what should the penalty to each government entity that has already committed a crime by destroying, taking down or removing civil war statues? ($3,000,000.00 in fines and reconstruct to its original status would be a starting point. I invite you to read all 25 pages of the “monument protection act”.
and all its constituent parts! also, section 100.2.1. “the protection of monuments.”
4. Should we consider for every civil war statue removed we also take down one of their statues to be equal and fair to all citizens?
5. What should congress, senate, elected officials do to renew and protect our constitutional rights of “freedom of speech” for all, every citizen, every organization, every race, every religious organization, etc., etc.

One of my favorite quotes is “it is impossible to know what you don’t know!” You can no longer claim “you don’t know!” You are duly informed, and provided a written copy. This article is an example of one person exercising the constitutional right of “free speech”! He who has an ear, let him/her hear!!

Maynard Taylor is currently serving as a Commissioner on the Burke County Board of Commissioners. He is one of sixteen children and has been married to his wife, Shirley, for over 56 years. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Hildebran and has served as Sunday School Teacher, Sunday School Superintendent, and Deacon. He currently serves on various boards and committees in the area.

continued from page 7
Marlene's Meditations

By Marlene Houk
Burke County

"Happy Thanksgiving"

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

High Country Prison Ministry

By Jody Griffin
Avery and Mitchell County

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

"18 Son of man, eat thy bread with mourning, and drink thy water with trembling and with carefulness; 19 And say unto the people of the land, Thus saith the Lord GOD of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and of the land of Israel; They shall eat their bread with carefulness, and drink their water with astonishment, that her land may be desolate from all that is therein, because of the violence of all them that dwell therein. 20 And the cities that are inhabited shall be laid waste, and the land shall be desolate; and ye shall know that I am the LORD." (Ezekiel 12:18-20)

The judgment of God is expressed in various ways throughout the Scriptures. Sadly, it is the believing community that misses the message being delivered as often those who understand themselves to be the ‘chosen ones’ are distracted by the sins of others and miss the Truth aimed squarely at them (us?).

In these prophetic words of Ezekiel come familiar descriptions of contemporary circumstances. Anxiety is high as people wonder what the trials and tribulations mean and how long things like civil unrest, disease outbreaks, and political upheaval will be the order of the day.

Read carefully, the prophetic declarations of Ezekiel could well be a prescription for all believers amid our anxiety.

First, the examination of life’s realities gives evidence of the problem. The message here is delivered to the people of God and the message is clear that those who claimed exclusive access to the blessings of God are also most subject to the judgment of God. The eating and drinking with carefulness speak to the need for people to give careful attention to the satisfaction of our ‘appetites’ at the expense of others.

Secondly, pay close attention to the activity that precipitated the judgment. ‘The violence of all of them that dwell within’ is addressed NOT to the enemies of God from without, but to the enemies of God within. The temptation to respond to the activities that threaten the stability of our lives with violence is the subject matter here. The implication is clearly that WE are the ones who have brought this divine judgment upon ourselves and this leads to the destruction and desolation of all we hold dear, such as institutions and expectations. The Hebrew word translated as violence literally means wrong, by unjust gain, cruelty, damage, and unjust treatment. It would be wonderful to point fingers at others here, but in all honesty, we simply cannot.

Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly is the description of the results of judgment visited upon the people of God, namely destruction of the inhabited cities and desolate, land conditions that are “dreadful”. Fires, floods, droughts, and assorted other calamities being labeled as ‘climate change’ are quite possibly to be understood as the judgment of God. The enemy of God is not answered with a ‘climate change’ but to the enemies of God within. The temptation to respond to the conflicts that arise in the family of God from without, but to the enemies of God within. The temptation to respond to the activities that threaten the stability of our lives with violence is the subject matter here. The implication is clearly that WE are the ones who have brought this divine judgment upon ourselves and this leads to the destruction and desolation of all we hold dear, such as institutions and expectations. The Hebrew word translated as violence literally means wrong, by unjust gain, cruelty, damage, and unjust treatment. It would be wonderful to point fingers at others here, but in all honesty, we simply cannot.

"Secondly, pay close attention to the activity that precipitated the judgment. ‘The violence of all of them that dwell within’ is addressed NOT to the enemies of God from without, but to the enemies of God within. The temptation to respond to the activities that threaten the stability of our lives with violence is the subject matter here. The implication is clearly that WE are the ones who have brought this divine judgment upon ourselves and this leads to the destruction and desolation of all we hold dear, such as institutions and expectations. The Hebrew word translated as violence literally means wrong, by unjust gain, cruelty, damage, and unjust treatment. It would be wonderful to point fingers at others here, but in all honesty, we simply cannot.

Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly is the description of the results of judgment visited upon the people of God, namely destruction of the inhabited cities and desolate, land conditions that are “dreadful”. Fires, floods, droughts, and assorted other calamities being labeled as ‘climate change’ are quite possibly to be understood as the judgment of the Living God.

As heavy as all of this feels, there is redemptive purpose in suffering. And it is spelled out for us in these words, "...and ye shall know that I am the Lord." (v. 20)

Yes, times are hard as we make our way through the long and difficult days of the pandemic. Perhaps we might all benefit from leaning into the message of this text, realizing its truth in our own living and then learning through God’s judgment that it is God alone Who rules and reigns. It is God alone Who wants all humanity to receive the gift of knowledge that God is the Lord.

In the midst of this season of suffering, let us find our voice to accept the responsibility of our sinfulness and to cry out to God for forgiveness. And let us return to our proper understanding of our God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Friend! And let us give thanks unto the Lord who has shown us His loving kindness for the mercy and grace found in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Jody Griffin is pastor of Central Baptist Church in Spruce Pine and Community Focused Chaplin at Avery-Mitchell Correctional Institution.
Life Lessons

By Doug Harrell
Mitchell County

Each day of our lives is a new beginning, we get out of bed and prepare to face the day and its rewards and challenges. When I got out of bed about 3:30 this morning the first thing that I saw was my dog Taz laying at the very foot of my bed. Now he has a Serta dog mattress with blankets at the other end of the room that he is usually on, but this morning it was as if he was saying “I want to be close to my master”.

Rather than just seeking the comforts, he wanted the closeness! Man, that is the making of a sermon for sure and it is the making for pure joy in our lives if we would only heed the message.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33 KJV

The song “Just a Closer Walk With Thee” come into my mind as I think about this. The song includes these words:

“I am weak but Thou art strong
Jesus keep me from all wrong
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee
Just a closer walk with Thee
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.”

The Scriptures tell us that our God is jealous and that we cannot serve two masters, a little paraphrase by Harrell here this morning, but that is so true. Our first love needs to be our Lord God Almighty and not things of this world. Get a grip today, draw your mind and soul a little closer to your Master and feel His presence. Leave the stress and enjoy the restfulness that only that personal relationship with our Lord and Creator can provide!

How do you obtain joy in your life? Are you focused on work and attaining big houses, nice cars, fancy clothes, and a big bank account? We are told in the scriptures that we cannot serve two masters, that we cannot serve God and money, that we will learn to love one and hate the other.

“Little by little for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Matthew 6:19-21 KJV

God wants us to be contributors to society, to use our talents to the best of our abilities, but just constantly focusing on things of this earth never give us true happiness. We are God over and over to put the Lord first in every one, to give freely and joyfully of our riches to our church and those around us in need. The Lord knows our needs and I do feel that He provides in wonderful ways if we only put Him first.

“Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 36:25-27 KJV

This passage made me really think of what our profession of faith does for us! Being Baptized in the power of the Spirit does things to our hearts and minds. A new heart, a new spirit, wow what a blessing! Many of us have had new replacement parts installed in our bodies, new knees, new shoulders, new hips, new lungs, even new hearts, and heart parts, and what a difference it has made in our physical lives. As amazing as medical science is, the changes made in our lives when we come to know Jesus is even greater.

Give thanks today for God's unlimited love and grace that watches over us. Give thanks that you were washed in the blood. Give thanks for the renewing of your mind and heart, even though that is important, giving of self is even more important. Just focus on putting Jesus first, the rest will fall in line.

“Even as I have been with you, I will also do with you.” John 13:34 KJV

In the society of today, where if it feels good just do it, we need to really think about where we are going and what we are doing. Each and every one of us, if we are honest with ourselves, have sinful thoughts if not actions. We have earthly desires and lusts that would be frowned upon by our Lord, at least I freely admit that I do! So many preach from the pulpit that God is just a loving God that forgives our sins and shortcomings. We tend to use God’s Grace as a coverall for our want to do all kinds of things. The Bible is clear that God is a just God, Proverbs states clearly that the fear of God is the beginning of all wisdom.

While Grace is sufficient, we must confess our sins and turn our eyes on Jesus, not use Grace as an excuse to live any way we want. We must become a new person in Christ.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” 2 Corinthians 5:10 KJV

Be careful what you say and what you do, be conscious of how you act around your children, as the saying goes, little pitchers have big ears. Strive to set the right example in all that you do. Give thanks that God’s grace is sufficient when we do fall short, but let your faith be shown by your works. Realize the greatest gift you ever received was God’s grace given freely, that that is your ticket into heaven if you truly believe and get on board the train of faith and repentance.

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;” Romans 3:23-25 KJV

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

NOW OPEN!!!
McCabe’s Tire & Service
A family owned & operated business
(828) 608-0840
Manager:
Nicholas McCabe
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

FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE TODAY
JUST CALL (828) 608-0840
Helping Families & Friends Honor Their Loved One.

With over 165 years of combined experience serving Burke, Catawba, and Caldwell County families, the owners and staff of Heritage Funeral Service and Crematory are committed to helping families plan a personal and meaningful ceremony that celebrates life, and begins the much-needed healing process.

Get in Touch
Our Team of Professionals Are Standing By to Help

We are now the new owners of Mackie Funeral Service in Granite Falls, 35 Duke St.

1507 E. Main St. | Phone: (828) 874-0411
Valdese, NC 28690 Fax: (828) 874-5390

Business Hours
Mon - Sun: 9am – 5pm
24 Hour Availability

November 2020 - Blue Ridge Christian News page 10

"We’re In God’s Hand, Brother!" (John 10:28)
By Steve Bietz
Burke County

One of my very favorite literary works of all time is Shakespeare’s “Henry V.” The play recalls how the English King Henry V was fighting the French because they did not recognize his claims to the land, and he won several battles against them at first — but over time his army was decimated by the length of the war and by illness. Henry tried to retreat to England, but sensing his weakness, the French king sent a large army to block his path home. Henry was outnumbered by the French about three to one, and many of his men were weary and ill. Just before the French launched their attack, one of Henry’s nobles, Gloucester, turned to the king and said, “I hope they will not come upon us now.” But King Henry responded: “We’re in God’s hand, brother, not theirs!”

That is one of my favorite lines of all time, in any play, book, or movie. “We’re in God’s hand, brother!” Even when they were faced with what looked like an overwhelming foe, Henry recognized that God was in charge of his life and his situation, not the enemy — and he entrusted himself and the fate of his men to Him. (And as you may know, with God’s help Henry did pull off a historic defeat of the French that day — losing only about 100 men, while the French lost 6000 — and they actually won the day!) He was truly in “God’s hand, not theirs!”

I love that truth: “We’re in God’s hand, brother.”

And it IS a Biblical truth — especially for the people of God, who have committed their lives to Him through Jesus Christ. When you give your life to Him, the Bible says He does hold you in His hand. Jesus said in John 10:28: “I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish, and no one will pluck them out of My hand.”

Jesus said He holds us in His hand — and no one can take us out. He went on to say in the next verse: ”My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one is able to pluck them out of the Father’s hand.” The Bible says as God’s children, we are in the hand of God, and nothing, and no one, can change that!

All through scripture the Bible refers to how we are being held by the hand of God:
— Psalm 95:7 says “For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.”
— Psalm 18:35, 63:8 “Your right hand upholds me.”
— Psalm 31:15 “My times are in Your hand” (some of us need to remember that today, in these “times”!)
— And I love this verse from Psalm 17:7: “Wonderfully show Your lovingkindness, O Savor of those who take refuge at Your right hand.”

All of these verses and many more, remind us that as God’s people, we are being held in His hand.

We need to remember that, and we should be comforted by it. It’s easy, sometimes, when we find ourselves in a distressing situation, to forget it, so we need to purposely remind ourselves of that truth when we get into those difficult situations: WE ARE IN GOD’S HAND! There are surely many of us today, in various situations, who need to be reminded of this truth: maybe it’s because a hurricane is about to strikes — or it may be some other specific situation you are facing. But you need to purposely remind yourself: “I am in God’s hand!” — and as King Henry did, put the specific thing that you’re facing in that place. He said, “I’m in “God’s hand, brother, not theirs” (talking about the French army).” Some of US tonight may need to make a similar, specific declaration of faith about OUR situation:
— I’m in God’s hand tonight, not the hurricane’s
— I’m in God’s hand today, not COVID-19’s
— I’m in God’s hand, not that sickness
— I’m in God’s hand, not that cancer.
— I’m in God’s hand, not the government’s
— I’m in God’s hand, not that oppressive boss’s
— I’m in God’s hand, not my creditor’s
— I’m in God’s hand, not my enemy’s

Say it about YOUR own situation: “I’m in GOD’S hand — not _________ (whatever your particular situation is).”

And there may be those of us tonight who need to apply it not only to ourselves personally but also to some of our loved ones:
— Maybe YOU are not in a bad situation this evening, but you know someone who are.
— Maybe YOU are not in a bad situation this evening, but you know someone who IS.

You may need to remind yourself tonight about that loved one as well: “They are in GOD’S hands” — not the hands of the storm, not the hands of the situation, whatever it is. “They are in God’s hands.” So DO pray for them, and pray fervently, but make it a prayer of faith. Because you know they are in God’s hands. 2020 has been a year of “storms” of many different kinds. But let’s not our eyes fixed on any of the various “storms” of life — instead let’s look to the Lord and remember Who He is, and what He does for us. Especially if you know Jesus as your Savior, you and your loved ones are not in the hands of the storm, or of anything else — “We’re in GOD’S hand, brother!”

Steve Bietz, Pastor, Morganton Seventh day Adventist Church.

Check out our Website-www.brcnews.com And find us on Facebook
The victory shall come! 

ten to your knees, praying passionately and persistently in the power of the Spirit!

changed, captives are set free, hearts are mended and nations rise and fall through

Spirit of God continually fills their hearts to the point of overflow which results in

Ephesians, "

doubtful, the Word, compromised. As Paul admonished earlier in his letter to the

will become fuzzy; righteousness, relative; peace, elusive; faith, weak; salvation,

access to a believer's whole being, that person cannot think clearly. Spiritual truth

breath of God; He is pure spiritual oxygen. Unless the Spirit of God has complete

oxygen, an individual finds it impossible to reason clearly. The Holy Spirit is the

Spirit is the word of God and Paul instructs us to pray at all times in the Spirit,

we can quickly perceive that prayer is essential to obtaining victory over the

flesh and the devil. The spiritual warfare in this present season requires the full

armor of God which is activated through Spirit-filled prayer. The average believer

struggles with prayer more than any other Christian discipline. The question is

why? The answer is quite simple: the devil fears fervent, unceasing, believing

prayers because he understands the power in those prayers. When the people of

God stand on the word of God and pray the promises of God, the Holy Spirit will

present those requests to Jesus, the One who ever lives to make intercession for

His bride. The Father is pleased to answer each petition in accordance with what

presented to Jesus, the One who ever lives to make intercession for

and sins, and He then indwells this new child of God. The Holy Spirit is now the

heart, opening blinded eyes to the good news of the gospel. Once a sinner repents,

as the perfect sacrifice for sin. The Holy Spirit brings conviction to the human

view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for

all the saints". God, the Father, has provided Jesus, the Son,

as the perfect sacrifice for sin. The Holy Spirit brings conviction to the human

heart, opening blinded eyes to the good news of the gospel. Once a sinner repents,

as the perfect sacrifice for sin. The Holy Spirit brings conviction to the human

heart, opening blinded eyes to the good news of the gospel. Once a sinner repents,
Apple Butter
By Hannah Hensley
Erwin, Tennessee

For most of 2020, I allowed fear to rule my life and control me. Afraid of getting sick. Afraid of who will be our next President. Afraid of financial ruin. Afraid of anything and everything that the news channels were telling me to be afraid of. And of the things that they were telling me not to be afraid of. Until one day my thoughts ran wild and I was imagining what could be the worst and most graphic thing that could happen to me. I thought of a painful death, slavery, and imprisonment, due to my convictions and faith. But no matter how horrible the things I imagined were, God’s grace and love were enough. If I die, I go to Heaven to meet Jesus. If I am imprisoned, I know it’s for His glory. If I am enslaved it’s not without a purpose. If I get sick, it’s not without reason, for God ordains all things. In the end, I choose to put my trust in God. He is my Father, and I, his child. Pain and suffering, and the fear of pain and suffering, are not enjoyable, but God did not promise us a life free of them.

When I came to these conclusions, I realized I had a fight on my hands: I must fight for a life free of worldly fears. I must fight for His Kingdom. I must fight for the good in this world, no matter the cost or the pain. A fight not for me and my securities, but for my children and grandchildren and on. But how do I know what is good? I know that God gives good gifts to his children. So, I thought, why not write out some of those good gifts no matter how small or large?

Of course, I thank God for a roof over my head, food to eat, clothing to wear, clean water, a job, family to love, friends to laugh with, freedom of speech, freedom to worship, the Bible, freedom to choose my medical options, freedom to own land, etc. But I am also thankful for some of the more mundane and unnoticed moments in our lives. I am especially thankful for the moments or memories that come once a year or even once a lifetime.

One of those memories for me is making apple butter. Every year my family makes apple butter with cinnamon, in a copper pot that has been passed down to us. What makes apple butter with cinnamon is good? I know that God gives good gifts to his children. So, I thought, why not write out some of those good gifts no matter how small or large?

The smell of cooking apples makes our mouths water. After hours of constant stirring, the sun begins to set, the apples are cooked, and it’s time to add the sugar. Ten pounds of sugar goes into the pot. We stir it in and then taste it. Some think that’s enough, while others want more added. So, another 3 pounds is added to the pot.

The fire is put out and a table with the jars is moved closer to the kettle. The men fill the jars with hot apple butter and the women clean the jars and screw on the lids. They also make biscuits and ham to enjoy with the hot apple butter. Outside the men yell “It’s time!”, then out go all the jars, lids, and rings along with bowls of water and cloths to clean with.

Momma gets the bottle of cinnamon oil and with a dropper, she adds the oil. The spoon is passed around again. “Needs more cinnamon”, says someone. So, Mama adds more and after everyone has had one more taste, it’s agreed that it’s enough. While others want more added. So, another 3 pounds is added to the pot.

The spoon is passed around again. “Needs more cinnamon”, says someone. So, Mama adds more and after everyone has had one more taste, it’s agreed that it’s enough. While others want more added. So, another 3 pounds is added to the pot. We stir for about an hour or until it thickens.

The women go into the house to prepare canning jars, rings, and lids. They also make biscuits and ham to enjoy with the hot apple butter. Outside the men yell “It’s time!”, then out go all the jars, lids, and rings along with bowls of water and cloths to clean with.

Mamaw gets the bottle of cinnamon oil and with a dropper, she adds the oil. The spoon is passed around again. “Needs more cinnamon”, says someone. So, Mama adds more and after everyone has had one more taste, it’s agreed that it’s enough. While others want more added. So, another 3 pounds is added to the pot.

The fire is put out and a table with the jars is moved closer to the kettle. The men fill the jars with hot apple butter and the women clean the jars and screw on the lids. Once the kettle is almost empty, we get a bowl to fill for our supper. Everyone helps to carry in the warm jars to the house.

In the joy and celebrations of the day. So, keep your chin up, fight the good fight. In the ordinary and extraordinary moments. In the mundane and the pain. God is with us, always. So, with everything we do, may we do it to bring Him glory. In the ordinary and extraordinary moments. In the mundane and the pain.

In the joy and celebrations of the day. So, keep your chin up, fight the good fight. In the ordinary and extraordinary moments. In the mundane and the pain. God is with us, always. So, with everything we do, may we do it to bring Him glory. In the ordinary and extraordinary moments. In the mundane and the pain.

In the joy and celebrations of the day. So, keep your chin up, fight the good fight. In the ordinary and extraordinary moments. In the mundane and the pain. God is with us, always. So, with everything we do, may we do it to bring Him glory. In the ordinary and extraordinary moments. In the mundane and the pain.

In the joy and celebrations of the day. So, keep your chin up, fight the good fight. In the ordinary and extraordinary moments. In the mundane and the pain. God is with us, always. So, with everything we do, may we do it to bring Him glory. In the ordinary and extraordinary moments. In the mundane and the pain.
Passing the Baton to the Next Generation

By Rev. John B. Sorensen

Christianity has always been just one generation from extinction. Think about it. All it takes is for one generation to drop the ball for the next generation to miss the opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. They cannot pass along what they do not have. It can happen in just one generation.

In Judges 2:10, an entire generation grew up not knowing the Lord and what He had done for the nation of Israel because the previous generation did not pass it along. And it could happen again. According to Barna Research, 61% of young adults (ages 20-30), who have been churched at one point in their teen years, are now spiritually disengaged. They are not actively attending church, reading their Bible, or praying. That’s six out of every ten young adults! Thankfully today, some of those young people eventually return to the church as adults, but we are still losing a percentage who never return. That number grows larger every year. If we, as Christ’s followers, aren’t able or willing to pass the baton to the next generation, it will cease to exist.

So what do we do? How can we engage our youth with the Gospel in a way that’s real and personal? One way I believe we can do this is by giving our children and young adults a strong foundation in the Gospel. Proverbs 22:6 advises us to train our children in the faith. But this doesn’t mean simply sending our children to Sunday School and hope for the best. Training includes making the Gospel clear to children in a way they can understand and helping them grow deeper in their faith.

Secondly, we must believe that children are not just the church of tomorrow; they are the church of today. Children have the potential for a lifetime of work for God’s Kingdom. Why not allow them to be an integral part of building that Kingdom right now by helping them share the most exciting gift they have: their faith? You’ve seen this happen over and over again through our Hope for Kids ministry at EE. When adults from multiple generations come alongside children and model the Gospel for them, they help them understand who God is and see their need for a Savior. So often, children are so excited about Jesus that they bring their friends and family to know Him too.

As children see others come to Jesus, their faith grows even stronger. They never forget the life-changing power of the Gospel when it is shared. The Good News of Jesus is rooted in their lives, and they are less likely to walk away during their teen and young adult years. The baton will continue to be passed from generation to generation.

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.
In the last few months, our country has been divided over many issues. And it seems exceedingly difficult at times to take a stand on the Word of God without offending someone? I often find myself questioning my own convictions at times. How can so few of us who are convinced we are following the Lord and His Word appear to have extraordinarily little influence in our nation today? Like Jeremiah the prophet, he preached his heart out and warned of God’s judgment, but no one listened. That is why Jeremiah is referred to as the “weeping prophet.”

Did Jesus ever bring conflict and division among the people He conversed with? The answer is yes most certainly. As a matter of fact, Jesus said this in Luke 12:51–53 (KJV 1900) 51" Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: 52 For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. 53 The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.”

Why did the ministry of Christ bring division? The reason the ministry of Christ brought division was that human people are sinful by nature and the righteousness of Jesus the God-Man would bring conviction of sin upon the sinner. Some people would repent of their sin and follow Christ as Savior and Lord. However, far more would rebel and harden their hearts against Christ and never seek repentance and there bringing division, hatred, and confusion against the Savior. The Same is true today the Gospel message is offensive because it shines a light on the places of our heart that want to remain in darkness. John 3:19 (KJV 1900) 19" And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”

Do you notice how the news media never mention the sinful nature of our actions? The violence in our streets, the killing of the baby in the womb, the changing and reconstruction of the family, and gender. But we cannot expect secular people to explain the true reason for sinful actions. The news media, politicians, and secular psychology will never address the true problem with the human heart. We are sinners in need of a heart transplant that can only happen in repentance and faith in Christ. Ezekiel 36:26 (KJV 1900) 26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. Thank the Lord for Salvation.”

Have you ever wondered what our nation will be like in 100 years? The Bible is under attack. Christian values do not matter that much in society today. But we cannot stop doing what God has called us to do in love and as much as possible in peace. Romans 12:18 (KJV 1900) 18 “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”

The battle is not mine. The battle is the Lord’s. I am just on His team trying to make the best decision as possible moving forward in faith. The devil has used covid-19 to hinder us, but he will not prevail. Remain faithful child of God. Read the Bible to your children to help them understand why God’s word is a “lamp unto their feet and a light to their path.” Pray earnestly for Gospel witnessing and contend for your Faith. Jesus Christ is coming for His Church “look up your redemption draws near.” God bless you as you serve the Lord to be faithful to your church encourage your pastor, he needs your prayers. Be thankful and be generous. We pray you have a wonderful Thanksgiving, and we love you.

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.
While the past few days have been a blur, there were many poignant moments which upon which to reflect. Gazing out across the fervent green pastures before the light of dawn, the cattle sent up a call to the morning and there was no turning back in ten landscape. It felt almost as if I was back on the farm in Chatham, there with my cattle grazing before me. As I sipped my campfire percolated coffee, there was a peace of knowing that we are all together again. It’s only in the blood of someone raised in the country, or perhaps, it’s just knowing the pleasures of a simpler life. While this was not my land, nor my farm, it was still a homecoming in many ways. This was my first real trip back not only to a place, not only to an event but more so to a collection of souls that had been part of my life before I crossed over. One by one, the journey never ends until the day we are laid into that final resting place. In essence, we are only halfway home. While that road we have traveled may seem long, we’ve still many miles to go. Yet, once you make that leap of faith, you are reminded that you’ve come too far to turn back. Each day becomes another opportunity to serve Him in all that you do. There is not a day that the scripture from Colossians does not come to mind, “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men: Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.” Colossians 3:23-24 KJV

When we take that leap of faith, we are no longer alone. Yet, those who have been left behind seldom know the reason, but only that someone has left the presence of their life, be it good or bad. Meanwhile, life goes on. The clock ticks, the wrinkles grow like furrows in the cornrow as the setting sun casts its shadows. One by one, the soldier’s fall – until the bitter end, but three. Jesus led the way and was an example to all – by the example of His life, He showed us that He, like all men, was changed. Our light can become that for all to see. It is there, in that moment of time, that we can each see where we are changed, and when we are allowed to return, as Moses came down from the mountain, there with his light shed on his face. He became like my lighthouse to the incoming ship. He assured me that God was using me in a mighty way. In their final days, both men impressed upon those whom they left behind a sense of urgency and a clear understanding of what it means to live the life the Lord led. In my case, it is being made across that great divide, the journey never ends until the day we are laid into that final resting place. As the campfire fades, the time slips away and soon, it is time to say goodbye to one another. There were no more sounds of singing or instruments being played – this was the morning after. Like that return across the river, once you have been to the other side, there is an appreciation for all things now.

As Delmar, in the movie “Oh Brother Where Art Thou,” waded back from his baptism to tell the others, “Step into the water boys, there’s plenty of salvation to be had for all.” Let your sins be washed away, and someday, you too can reach the other side, there is an inspiration to return to a place we once knew, to show others that it can be done – to Wade across that wide river and find that far distant shore. There is an inspiration to step back into another time, akin to our own. To grow up in a sleepy little town, like New Harmony, where our only limitations were how many bottles you could collect in order to buy a bag of candy from the five-and-dime. Our energy seemed boundless. We never stopped. We were either running in play across fertile green pastures or riding a bicycle around our little village from sun up to sundown. When the evening bath was complete, there was no sleeplessness. As soon as your head hit the pillow, you were waked up to a new day. As the gray light of dawn found its way into the corners of my tent, the raindrops could not silence the lowing of the cattle. Some had stopped their music only a short while before. Many would not rise until long after the sun’s arc had reached midday. It was this time of day, the predawn, that made the recollections of previous festivals drift back into one’s mind. Like Randy’s early morning greetings, there were other familiar sounds, but less obvious. Intently, if one listened, the coffee grumbling at the heat from the fire could be heard, shortly before the bells of the nearby church were cracking fire, like the last vestiges of the whispery poowwll, united with the sounds of water still dripping from the trees. And there another acorn would fall from the many oak trees that shaded our camping site. There were no more sounds of singing or instruments being played – this was the morning after. Like that return across the river, once you have been to the other side, there is an appreciation for all things now.

While you will never be the same, there is a certain contentment in seeing or hearing how some things will never change; albeit, some may be less industrious than others. We were always looking for the crossroads to serve Him in all that we do. There is a reminder that you’ve come too far to turn around. Yet, those who have been left behind seldom know the reason, but only that someone has left the presence of their life, be it good or bad. Meanwhile, life goes on. The clock ticks, the wrinkles grow like furrows in the cornrow as the setting sun casts its shadows. One by one, the soldier’s fall – until the bitter end, but three. Jesus led the way and was an example to all – by the example of His life, He showed us that He, like all men, was changed. Our light can become that for all to see. It is there, in that moment of time, that we can each see where we are changed, and when we are allowed to return, as Moses came down from the mountain, the radiance of his being was too great for those to see – likewise, we are changed. Our light can become that for all to see.

To the left, there is a sound of singing, or instruments being played – this was the morning after. Like that return across the river, once you have been to the other side, there is an appreciation for all things now.
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

For more information on the Christmas lights display lighting ceremony or the Trail of Faith, visit waldensiantrailoffaith.org, or email trailoffaith1893@gmail.com. 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

The Waldensian people were considered to be people who lived by the scripture and were “tortured, exiled, and martyred, and still the faith that drove them from the Alpine Valleys of Italy to the foothills of North Carolina survived.” The Trail of Faith is the story of the Waldensian people. Visitors can look forward to students from Christ Classical Academy, Ruth Eberle College playing music and singing for a trailoffaithbeforetrail.com founder and president, former North Carolina Sen. Jim Jacumin, reads the Christmas Story.

“It’s important for us to share the Christmas story with the kids, because the kids are what this event is really about,” Jacumin said. “Children play an important role in Christmas and it is important for us to pass on what we know.” As done in years past, three students will be chosen to turn on the lights at the end of the ceremony, marking the traditional lighting of the trail. This year students from Christ Classical Academy will be guided by their teacher Melissa Kerstetter, in their performance of all your Christmas favorites!

The Christmas lights display uses more than 100,000 LED bulbs that are fashioned into favorite Christmas-time scenes that keep a steady flow of traffic, generally averaging 30 to 40 vehicles a night to enjoy the lights display, Jacumin said. “We have visitors that come all the way from Charlotte for our lighting ceremony and to see the Trail of Lights,” said Jacumin. “Each year we have between 7,000 and 8,000 visitors.”

Volunteers at the Trail of Faith, also known as “trail friends,” begin preparation work for the lighting ceremony a month in advance to test the lights and set up the Christmas-time scenes. According to Trail of Faith office assistant Sheryl Tron, the event relies entirely on volunteer help and Tron said the ceremony would not be possible without the help of “trail friends.”

Everything at the Trail of Lights relates to the history of the Waldensian people but the most important thing is that the displays are focused on Jesus, Jacumin said.

“We love having families bring their children and we want folks to just come and enjoy themselves,” Jacumin said. “The whole event really reminds us what Christmas is about, and that is doing for others and doing something for someone else. It enriches the building blocks of society and it’s a joy to be able to give back — and that’s a big part of the community.” Visitors of the Christmas lights display are encouraged to stop by the Visitor’s Center where hot chocolate and hot apple cider will be served alongside refreshments. The Trail of Faith, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)3 funded by donations from guests each year. There is no admission fee to the Christmas lights display but the Trail of Faith will gladly accept donations to help fund December’s utility bill.

The Trail of Lights will be open the Tuesday before Thanksgiving through Dec. 24 from 6-9 p.m. every night. The Visitor Center will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. There will be no lights on Christmas Day but the lights will be on Christmas Eve.

For more information on the Christmas lights display lighting ceremony or the Waldensian Trail of Faith, call the Waldensian Trail of Faith Office at 828-874-1893, visit waldensiantrailoffaith.org, or email trailoffaith1893@gmail.com.

Foundation Forward

Founding Fathers and How They Served Our Country—Samuel Huntington

By David Streater, PhD
Burke County

Some historians recognize Samuel Huntington, who was born in Connecticut on July 3, 1731, as the first president of the United States.

As a teenager, Samuel was becoming a cooper, making and repairing barrels and containers. With limited education, Huntington became an attorney joining the Bar in 1754 by studying under lawyers, ministers, and others.

For 10 years while practicing law, Samuel’s competency earned him to the provincial assembly, judgments, a King’s attorney, membership to Connecticut’s Colony Council, and later as governor. Subsequently, Huntington was elected to the Second Continental Congress representing Connecticut, signing the Declaration of Independence on August 2, 1776. From September 1779, through July 1781, Huntington was appointed the President of the Continental Congress when John Jay vacated the position.

During Huntington’s congressional tenure on March 1, 1781, the Articles of Confederation became law. This reshaped the thirteen individual states into a single body, the United States of America. Objective historians argue that “Huntington became the nation’s first ‘real’ president when his title changed from ‘President of the Continental Congress’ to ‘President of the United States in Congress Assembled’.”

To this day, historians continue to debate as to who was the actual first president of the United States — Huntington or Washington.

Please visit your Charters of Freedom setting in most western North Carolina counties. A Charters of Freedom setting consists of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. They are on permanent display analogous the Charters of Freedom in the National Archives, Washington, DC. Please visit our website (ChartersofFreedom.com) to learn more about our existing settings.

Teachers are encouraged to contact Dr. Streater for information and complimentary student education materials to enhance experiential field trips to a Charters of Freedom setting.

Dr. David Streater is the director of education for Foundation Forward. He is a retired college instructor and administrator, and a retired probation and parole officer/administrator. David is a criminologist who has an acute history interest, served in the Navy, and is a resident of Burke County, NC.

Valdese Christmas

Annual Christmas Lights Display

By Sheryl Tron

The Waldensian Trail of Faith in Valdese will light up again this year in shining holiday splendor. The annual Lighting Of The Trail ceremony will take place the Tuesday before Thanksgiving at 6 p.m. in our church at the Trail of Faith, located at 401 Church Street NW in Valdese, NC. With more than 100,000 LED bulbs fashioned into favorite Christmas scenes, the Trail of Lights is a Christmas lights display at the Waldensian Trail of Faith.

Founded in 1993, the Trail is an outdoor museum consisting of 11 acres that portray the history of the Waldensian people back to the time of the Biblical Apostles, according to the Trail of Faith’s website, www.valdensiantrailoffaith.org. Scattered among the property are 15 buildings and monuments that detail the history of each phase in the Waldenses’ journey.

The Trail of Faith tour brings to life the struggles faced by the Waldensian people, pays tribute to their sacrifices, and also celebrates their success and triumphs, the website reads. The Waldensian people were considered to be people who lived by the scripture and were “tortured, exiled, and martyred, and still the faith that drove them from the Alpine Valleys of Italy to the foothills of North Carolina survived.” The Trail of Faith is the story of the Waldensian people. Visitors can look forward to students from Christ Classical Academy, Ruth Eberle College playing music and singing for a trialoffaithbeforetrail.com founder and president, former North Carolina Sen. Jim Jacumin, reads the Christmas Story.

“It’s important for us to share the Christmas story with the kids, because the kids are what this event is really about,” Jacumin said. “Children play an important role in Christmas and it is important for us to pass on what we know.” As done in years past, three students will be chosen to turn on the lights at the end of the ceremony, marking the traditional lighting of the trail. This year students from Christ Classical Academy will be guided by their teacher Melissa Kerstetter, in their performance of all your Christmas favorites!

The Christmas lights display uses more than 100,000 LED bulbs that are fashioned into favorite Christmas-time scenes that keep a steady flow of traffic, generally averaging 30 to 40 vehicles a night to enjoy the lights display, Jacumin said. “We have visitors that come all the way from Charlotte for our lighting ceremony and to see the Trail of Lights,” said Jacumin. “Each year we have between 7,000 and 8,000 visitors.”

Volunteers at the Trail of Faith, also known as “trail friends,” begin preparation work for the lighting ceremony a month in advance to test the lights and set up the Christmas-time scenes. According to Trail of Faith office assistant Sheryl Tron, the event relies entirely on volunteer help and Tron said the ceremony would not be possible without the help of “trail friends.”

Everything at the Trail of Lights relates to the history of the Waldensian people but the most important thing is that the displays are focused on Jesus, Jacumin said.

“We love having families bring their children and we want folks to just come and enjoy themselves,” Jacumin said. “The whole event really reminds us what Christmas is about, and that is doing for others and doing something for someone else. It enriches the building blocks of society and it’s a joy to be able to give back — and that’s a big part of the community.” Visitors of the Christmas lights display are encouraged to stop by the Visitor’s Center where hot chocolate and hot apple cider will be served alongside refreshments. The Trail of Faith, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)3 funded by donations from guests each year. There is no admission fee to the Christmas lights display but the Trail of Faith will gladly accept donations to help fund December’s utility bill.

The Trail of Lights will be open the Tuesday before Thanksgiving through Dec. 24 from 6-9 p.m. every night. The Visitor Center will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. There will be no lights on Christmas Day but the lights will be on Christmas Eve.

For more information on the Christmas lights display lighting ceremony or the Waldensian Trail of Faith, call the Waldensian Trail of Faith Office at 828-874-1893, visit waldensiantrailoffaith.org, or email trailoffaith1893@gmail.com.

The Waldensian Trail of Faith is located at 401 Church St., NW in Valdese.

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

www.brcnews.com

November 2020 - Blue Ridge Christian News page 16
"He Knew 'My' Voice"
By Linda McIntosh
Burke County

We are fed daily with a dialogue of how long is long and how short is short. I am not talking about the shortness or length of any object. I am talking about the life of a child from conception to birth. This scenario began playing in my mind when this debate came up about whether a mother had a right to decide if her child should live or die after it is born.

I would cry each time I heard that in America this could even become an actual act. I think we are always a little bit extra to even the odds and bring us up to where the rest of the world is. Again, why would God spend a little more time and care to honor those parts that have less dignity. This makes for harmony among the members, to the marginal of society and showed them extra care because they were part of the body and that honor and care leveled the playing field.

Yes, we are individuals. Yes, individuals make up the community. Yes, we are all created in the image of the Almighty. And yes, we are to love one another as we have been loved. Because at one time or another, we were a part of that group that was lacking; we didn’t have it all together and we still don’t many times. And at those times, God reaches out to the marginal of society and showed them extra care because they were part of the body and that honor and care leveled the playing field.

All of you together arc Christ’s Body, and each of you is a part of it. — 1 Corinthians 12:27

"He Knew ‘My’ Voice"
Poem

Hallowed Be Thy Name
By Joy Baldwin
Madison County

It's October again they say
In October every year
The Children go to trick or treat
Think I'll just stay right here.

Goblins, ghost, and candy
Whoever thought of such a thing
Tho as a child I took my part
Now I'll sit by the window and sing.

My song is “Our Heavenly Father
Hallowed be thy name all year
I’m glad You are holy and mighty
So we never have to live in fear.”

If children don’t know about His love
To cover their head they might
Yet knowing of the Father’s great power
They feel safe ‘n secure on Halloween night.

Joy Baldwin is a resident of Madison County, where she now lives with her hus-
band Danny Joe Baldwin. As a previous member, she calls Forks of Ivy Mission-
ary 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.
Choose Blessing
By Jim Huskins
McDowell County

Many take stock of their lives at this time of year and express thanks for God’s mercy and bounty. Every good thing comes from above, and forgiveness of sin tops the list. Without salvation by grace through faith, none of us could enter into God’s presence. Christians typically believe that God “blesses” us because we “go to church” or tithe, but the Bible teaches that blessing follows obedience. Several passages clarify this connection. I will focus on Leviticus 26:3-13. Please read those verses now.

In a culture that assumes “blessing” means “wealth,” most miss the enormity of the promises made in this passage. Verses 4 and 5 speak of timely rain, abundant grain, and a bounty of fruit. These are true blessings. We value our “sophistication” and brag that most Americans have been “freed from the drudgery” of growing food, but we owe our existence to topsoil and rain. When God’s earth stops producing food, even the wealthy will starve.

Verses 6 through 8 describe an almost unimaginable blessing: peace. The Hebrew word “Shalom” does not refer to the mere absence of conflict. Shalom is fullness; safety in mind, body, and emotion; inner completeness and tranquility. Shalom is a wholeness that encourages one to live in obedience to God and give heart, hands, and feet to gratitude. To greet someone with “Shalom” is to say: “May you be full of well-being, health, and prosperity.”

Peace, even in the simple sense of “absence of conflict,” has been rare during my life. Events of this calendar year cause some to wonder if we are capable of comprehending how dystopian our near future could become. Is it possible for institutions of culture, religion, and government to ever again merit trust? Even in—especially in—such dire circumstance, the Bible teaches that God Almighty wants to grant us His Shalom. What is that promise “worth”? How grateful would we be to experience Shalom? The Bible gives a clear path toward such a blessing.

The last verses of our text speak of profound blessings. Our culture glorifies infertility, but verse 9 says that children are a blessing. Verse 10 restates the blessing of abundant food. Verses 11 and 12 glorify the glorious reality of God living among us. Verse 13 is one of many places where the Bible uses “land of Egypt” as a metaphor for the bondage of sin. We are reminded that only God is capable of saving us from that sorry state. He has done so through the sacrifice of His Only Son.

God’s process for receiving these fabulous blessings is introduced in verse 3. It begins with one of the largest words in our language: if. “If you walk in My statutes, keep My commands and carry them out.” From the beginning of man’s continued on page 34
Check out our new Website-www.brcnews.com
And find us on Facebook

Can you hear me now?
By Steve Williams
Mitchell County

Can you hear me now became a part of our vocabulary many years ago when the cell phone came into our lives. We laugh about it we make up jokes about it and even made several commercials on these five simple but critical words. Can you hear me now? The Bible says Exodus 3:2-4 “And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. [3] And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. [4] And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.” Why did Moses say “Here Am I,” simply because he could hear the Lord speaking to Him? I believe that every person can hear from God, and they even understand what God is wanting them to do or not to do. But what is sad is that many decide not to listen when God is speaking. In this passage, God is calling Moses to do a specific task. God wanted him to lead His people out of the land of Egypt. Moses put up a little resistance giving excuses why he couldn’t do it. But God told Moses he had spoken to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and had made a covenant to give their seed the land of Cannon. God assured Moses He would use him to lead His people to this Promise Land. God sent Moses to the People in Exodus 6:9 but the people of Israel would not listen. They were afraid of the cruel bondag. Then the Lord told Moses to go now and talk to Pharaoh. Moses told the Lord that the people wouldn’t hear you, what makes you think Pharaoh will. Then in Chapter 7, the Lord told Moses that He would make him a god in the eyes of Pharaoh and Aaron a Prophet. The Lord told Moses to listen and He would instruct him on what he needed to do. Folks is that not what God has asked each and every one of us as Christians to do? To listen and follow orders just as He instructed Moses to do. It’s when we fail to listen and follow God’s instruction we find ourselves in a mess.

We know in this story Moses and Aaron went into Pharaoh and Aaron took his rod and threw it to the ground and it turns into a serpent. And Pharaoh magicians were able to do the same, but God had Aaron’s serpent eat all the others. After that Moses, returned the plagues start. The Water into Blood, Frogs, Lice, Flies, Boils, Hair, Locusts, and Darkness. Each time a plague would come Pharaoh would give in, then he would change his mind. Think about it, does this sounds like many people in our day? Hard times will come, they decide it’s not right, right, listen to God and then when the time comes they change their mind.

Now I know that God hardened Pharaoh’s heart during this time the Bible says. But who or is what hardening the heart of men and women’s hearts today? Well, it’s simple; it’s Satan, sin, and ourselves. Now let’s look at the last plague. The death angel is ready to come on the scene and take the first born of every man and animal of Egypt. God has instructed the Israelite’s on how they should prepare for this event in Exodus 12. If there had ever been a time for Pharaoh to listen it was now. I wonder how Pharaoh could be so foolish as to see God’s miraculous power and still not listen to Moses. But I believe Pharaoh had his mind made up long before the plagues started. Pharaoh just couldn’t believe that someone was greater than he. His stubborn unbelief led to a heart so hard that even these catastrophes couldn’t soften him. This is also a picture we see playing out right before our eyes. Any problem, big or small, within a family, always seems to start with bad communication. Someone isn’t listening. God is crying out to this world “Can You Hear Me Now?” God has been giving warnings from the beginning of time for people to turn from their sins and their evil ways;… God is crying out to this world “Can You Hear Me Now?” God has been giving warnings from the beginning of time for people to turn from their sins and their evil ways and turn to a true and Holy God. It’s sad to say but people are failing to act right or we will pay the consequences. God says in Ezekiel 33:11 “Troy unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways;…”

Now I wonder how Pharaoh could be so foolish as to see God’s miraculous power and still not listen to Moses. But I believe Pharaoh had his mind made up long before the plagues started. Pharaoh just couldn’t believe that someone was greater than he. His stubborn unbelief led to a heart so hard that even these catastrophes couldn’t soften him. This is also a picture we see playing out right before our eyes. Any problem, big or small, within a family, always seems to start with bad communication. Someone isn’t listening. God is crying out to this world “Can You Hear Me Now?” God has been giving warnings from the beginning of time for people to turn from their sins and their evil ways;… God is crying out to this world “Can You Hear Me Now?” God has been giving warnings from the beginning of time for people to turn from their sins and their evil ways and turn to a true and Holy God. It’s sad to say but people are failing to listen just as Pharaoh did right here.

Words of Wisdom:
• I remind myself every morning: Nothing I say this day will teach me anything. So if I’m going to learn, I must do it by listening. Larry King
• Any problem, big or small, within a family, always seems to start with bad communication. Someone isn’t listening. Emma Thompson
• Most of the successful people I’ve known are the ones who do more listening than talking. Bernard Baruch
• There is a difference between listening and waiting for your turn to speak. Simon Sinek

Steve Williams is the Pastor of Berry Chapel Baptist Church in Spruce Pine.
Residential Drug Recovery Ministry
Coming To Mitchell County!
By Bruce Cannon
Mitchell County

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the thoughts (plans) that I think toward you, saith the LORD…”

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

The above two verses serve as “life verses” for me. They instruct and remind me that the Lord has plans, laid out before the foundation of the world, for us to live by. He has works for us to accomplish for His honor, glory, and purposes. He provides leadership. He opens the doors. He provides the resources, and He moves upon the heart of Christian folks to do the work. The will of God is always going to lie at the intersection of the needs of people and the gifts, talents, and abilities the Lord has given to meet those needs.

I am extremely pleased and excited to announce one of those needs is in the process of being met. The Board of Directors of the Mitchell County Recovery Ministries, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit corporation, is a passionate group of Christian men and women living in Mitchell County, who are in the process of launching a residential drug recovery ministry for women. How exciting! How desperately needed this ministry is!

The location will be in the Mitchell County area and will serve to meet the needs of women who are ready to have help in recovering from addiction. It will be a Christian ministry that will teach Biblical principles as the Board believes the only lasting help for recovery is through Christ.

The ministry, Never2Scarred, will be under the leadership of Jessica Williams as she serves under the direction of the Board of Directors. The initial capacity of women who can be served will be seven but there are plans to expand after the first year or so of operation. The Board is currently in the process of finalizing the location and will have so much more information to share by the printing of the December edition of the Blue Ridge Christian News.

How can you help? Pray. Pray for open doors and hearts for those living around to want to help contribute to this ministry. Pray that the Board of Directors will be in tune with the Lord that every decision made will be exactly according to His Will. Pray for those struggling with addiction. Drug addiction literally affects every family to some degree!

How else can you help? Be listening for more information. Engage one of the board members to speak at your Church, civic meeting, prayer group, etc. Contact information will be shared through the December edition of the Blue Ridge Christian News.

Finally, thank the Lord with us that this ministry will be launching very soon according to His Will. Pray for those struggling with addiction. Drug addiction literally affects every family to some degree!

How else can you help? Be listening for more information. Engage one of the board members to speak at your Church, civic meeting, prayer group, etc. Contact information will be shared through the December edition of the Blue Ridge Christian News.

We Still Have Hope
For He Is Alive!!
By Sylvia Murphy
Madison County

As a ministry outreach to the community, Gabriels Creek Baptist Church at 111 Gabriels Creek Church Road in Mars Hill will be bringing back its eighth LIVE drive-through Christmas Pageant on Saturday, December 5 and Sunday, December 6 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (rain or shine—If snow/ice check church Facebook page). One will see the portrayal of the Angel’s visit to Mary through Jesus’ ascension into heaven as you tour in the warmth and comfort of your vehicle.

The tour begins outside the little town of Bethlehem. One will be able to see the shepherds and where the birth of Jesus took place with live animals surrounding the stable. Travel through the little town of Bethlehem with shops where people in Jesus’ day were able to buy commodities and transact business. See the residents of Bethlehem worshipping in the temple.

At this point one will see some of the ministries and miracles of Jesus—the healing of the blind man, calling out his fishermen disciples and letting them know they now would be fishers of men rather than fish. He is shown speaking with the hated Samaritan woman and then raising the daughter of Jairus from the dead.

Jesus then begins his final few days on earth. He is taken to Pilate’s Hall, condemned, beaten, and then bears his own cross to Calvary. One will then find the tomb empty on the day of His resurrection when He arose. The finale shows Jesus ascending into heaven to be with His heavenly Father. One will not be disappointed in attending this “Life of Christ” portrayal.

People have been very complimentary and end up coming back each year and sometimes attend both nights. Others have gone through twice during the same night. No charges or reservations are required. Just come as you are and invite friends to attend with you. Since you do not have to exit your car at any time, bring the children in their pajamas. Rev. Gary Coates, Pastor, and our church family invite and welcome you and your family to go back in time and visit with them in Bethlehem.

Information/directions: Visit the Gabriels Creek Church Facebook page or email smurphey@mhu.edu or call 828-682-6755 (H) or 828-206-6755 (C).

Sylvia Murphey is a member of Gabriels Creek Baptist Church and works with the pageant as well as does some of the pageant publicity. She retired from Mars Hill University in 2012 with 45 years of service as an administrative assistant. Sylvia lives in Bald Creek Community of Yancey County. She is deeply involved with the missions outreach of her church and has been a volunteer at both Memo-ryCare (a nonprofit physician’s office in Asheville caring for patients/families affected by dementia) and Abiding Hope Family and Pregnancy Services in Mars Hill. For questions or further information, please contact Sylvia Murphey at smurphey@mhu.edu or call 828-682-6755 (home) or 828-206-6755 (cell).
Anna And Simeon, Two Witnesses

By Patricia Jackson
McDowell County

In Luke 2, V 36, Anna is referred to as a prophetess. She was one of several women who spoke by divine inspiration or as an interpreter through the will or direction of God. Her appearance in the bible is brief, only three verses (V. 36, 37, and 38), yet her story gives us much to learn about prayer and being faithful.

Verse 36 tells us she was of the tribe of Aser. What is significant about her lineage and the tribe of Aser? (Note: The word Aser is found only two times in the bible and is the Greek spelling of the Hebrew name Asher). Asher was one of the 12 tribes of Israel that later became the Jewish People. The twelve tribes were descendants from the patriarch Jacob, son of Isaac and grandson of Abraham. God’s love and desire to have a faithful family led to the birth of these twelve sons. Joshua assigned territory to each of the 12 tribes when Joshua assigned territory to each of the twelve tribes.

We find the twelve tribes mentioned in Revelation Ch. 7, verse 4. "And I heard the number of them which were sealed, and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel". Verse 6 "Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand.”

Verses 36 and 37 tells us she was of a great age, 84 years, and a widow. She was not like most women of that time. She would have been encouraged to marry again, have children. She did not seek after another husband, choosing to remain single. She lived in the inner court of King Herod’s temple, where women were allowed. She served God with fasting and prayers night and day. God was her family, the temple her home, and prayer her occupation. We would call her a “Prayer Warrior.”

When Joseph and Mary brought the baby Jesus into the temple, Simeon recognized him as the Savior. Simeon was a just and devout man who knew that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Anna came in at that instance and gave thanks to the Lord. She experienced the very presence of God. Her eyes had seen the promised child. The news was too great to keep to herself. She spoke of him to all those in Jerusalem who waited for the promised Messiah.

I wondered why there were two who recognized the baby as the Christ child. Would one not be enough? Deuteronomy 19:15 says "A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or wrongdoing". Only on the evidence of two or three witnesses shall a charge be established. Two witnesses were needed to confirm the validity of the claim this was indeed the Christ child. Simeon was led by the Spirit into the temple and Anna lived in the temple. It was no accident these two were in the temple at the moment Joseph and Mary brought the child to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord. These scriptures give us powerful insight into the life of those dedicated to seeking God. God does speak, lead, and guide His people. How would Anna or Simeon recognize Christ if God didn’t tell them? Our prayer should be to "Set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God." I Chronicles 22:19

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.
Health-Sharing Ministries. Consider These During The Annual Enrollment Period

By Steve Gaito
McDowell County

For over 4 years I have been providing consulting services on many of the Health Sharing Ministries. For those of you unaware of these plans they are a very affordable option for healthcare for those who are a good fit. There are many types of plans from basic, and I mean basic plans that cost under $100 a month to those that resemble most major medical plans. Now it is very important to understand that these plans are not insurance. They pool money to meet the medical obligations stated in the plan. This is also where it can get complicated. If you read comments online you will see people that are upset because the plan they selected did not pay. In most cases, it is either something that is clearly stated in the plan that is not covered or it relates to a pre-existing condition. For all of my clients, I seek to understand their medical history to see if these plans are a good fit. The reality is in our society pre-existing conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes, and other conditions are common today. Some of these plans do not cover anything related to these conditions, while others will help with managing them. One consistency of all of them is that if a major health event is in any way related to a pre-existing condition they will not pay for the major health event if it is during a probationary period. Some say it is not fair, but in reality, it is being fair to all the others that participate in the health-sharing ministry.

When I started with health sharing ministries I was looking for something that would bridge the gap between retirement and Medicare. These HSMS fit the bill perfectly for those in good health. Over the past 4 years, I have evaluated most of the products out there. Name recognition and marketing seemed to drive the products that most used. Recently I have used OneShare as my primary product. It is one of the lower-cost alternatives, but what really sets them apart from the others is the way they do business. I personally like their commitment to the charities that they support. I have participated in Tim Tebow’s night to shine and love his passion for helping people with mental and physical challenges. To my surprise, OneShare was a partner with this ministry. That was impressive. I have also learned they support an orphanage as my primary product. It is one of the lower-cost alternatives, but what really sets them apart from the others is the way they do business. I personally like their commitment to the charities that they support. I have participated in Tim Tebow’s night to shine and love his passion for helping people with mental and physical challenges. To my surprise, OneShare was a partner with this ministry. That was impressive. I have also learned they support an orphanage.

The good news is they are not done yet. They have expanded their board requests in 21 days. For me, this is what stewardship looks like. I don’t know anything about any insurance companies that have a record like this. They may but I have not seen it.

And for this reason, I am proud to partner with them to provide great healthcare. There is a frequent Bible verse on OneShare literature that sums up how they approach this ministry.

"Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

And for this reason, I am proud to partner with them to provide great healthcare.

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.
In this monthly series of articles, I have sought to introduce you to twelve spiritual disciplines (which I call “Habits of the Heart”). Wise and obedient followers of Jesus know and understand that we must pursue these spiritual disciplines in our faith journey to maturity in Christ. The first four disciplines are referred to as “corporate disciplines” (i.e., they are practiced within the Body of Christ, the Church). As I mentioned last month, these four reflect the crowning achievement of the work of the Holy Spirit of God in the believer’s life. Today, look with me at the spiritual habit of the heart that is called “guidance.”

God has given us His very own Spirit, who will be our constant companion as we walk through this evil, sinful world—who will guide us, comfort us, intercede for us, and constantly speak of God’s goodness, His love, and His plans and purposes for us. Filled with the Holy Spirit as our guide, each believer is both called and equipped to become a guide, counselor, and/or a leader in some capacity of others. If we fail to recognize our calling as guides, disciples, and witnesses, then we fail to realize and experience the deepest and greatest of God’s plans and purposes for our lives. But as we humbly and faithfully serve as a vital part of the Body of Christ, we join our fellow Christians on a powerful mission to honor and glorify our Master and King.

It has been my calling and privilege throughout forty years of Christian ministry and service to disciple and to offer pastoral counseling in both a mission setting as well as a church setting. I have been blessed to guide the lost and confused into a saving relationship with Christ. I have also been blessed to help struggling individuals, marriages, and families, rebuild, repair, and reconcile broken lives and relationships. I have taught and equipped believers to be lay-counselors and disciples. And what I have discovered through this wonderful journey is that all believers have a part to play in God’s plans and purposes. Whether you want to call this gifting teaching, helping, mentoring, discipling, counseling or guidance, each one of us is called to guide others in this journey of life toward God.

There are three areas in which all of us have a part to play as spiritual guides:

1. In leading and guiding those who do not know God toward an encounter and a decision to surrender their lives to Jesus and begin a saving relationship with God in Christ. We don’t have to look far to find pain and hurting in our world. Our churches and our communities are full of hurting people. Among them are: the fatherless; the depressed; those suffering from chronic anxiety and stress; those who are suffering physical or sexual abuse; and those entangled in marital trouble or have experienced a divorce. That’s only the beginning of the list. God’s answer to the hurts, wounds, and pain is found in the hope and love of Jesus. And when each of us is willing to reach out and channel God’s love and purposes, Jesus touches, soothes, heals, and restores. One of God’s greatest plans is to use each one of us to connect to the hurting and help them know and experience His great love and plans for their lives.

2. In helping to grow and equip our fellow believers (the Saints). We play a fundamental part in leading and guiding fellow believers toward maturity in the faith.

3. In coming alongside the hurting, wounded, and distraught—leading and guiding them toward healing and wholeness.

The first aspect of the spiritual discipline of “Guidance” is leading and guiding those who do not know God toward an encounter and a decision to surrender their lives to Christ. That’s called evangelism, which is the task of sharing the gospel message that offers the lost and separated from God the truth that sets them free from sin and death. Sharing the gospel is the task of the whole church. Everything that we do should be aimed at making Christ known. Paul declared (Romans 1:16), “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” Each and every Christ-follower has been entrusted with the gospel message. We are guides! Remember, a guide is someone who knows what they are doing and has been employed to assist others to reach a destination (e.g., a white-water rafting guide). Christians are guides! We have no power to save—for only Jesus has the power to save. We have no power to move anyone toward salvation; they must decide for themselves. We offer to them what we have already experienced—a testimony of saving faith in Christ Jesus.

A second aspect is to grow and equip fellow believers. Solid, spiritually-based, and trustworthy leadership is so important to the growth and function of the church. As the church grows, each believer must have the opportunity to grow and fulfill the role God has assigned to them. As Paul and others then took up the mantle of sharing the gospel, churches were planted throughout the known world (Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and in the uttermost parts of the world). Godly leadership was needed to steer God’s people, to disciple them, and to manage the overflowing of the manifestation of the Holy Spirit and His works throughout the church. In other words, they must be equipped to decide for anyone—they must decide for themselves. We offer to them what we have already experienced—a testimony of saving faith in Christ Jesus.

The work of “Guidance” in the midst of the corporate body of Christ is the spiritual work of discipleship and leadership. Dr. Ed Hinson describes this work simply as “Learning to be an instrument of God to help people understand who they really are, what they really need, and what they can do about it.” As God’s people answer the call to both seek and offer guidance, and we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and in those we seek to guide, then God’s mighty and wonderful plans are accomplished. How about you? Are you ready and willing to be a guide? I certainly hope so!

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.
The Political Choice in Front of Us is Either Christ or Chaos
By Dr. Mark Creech

During the early nineties, the leaning Tower of Pisa started to lean too far. So engineers designed a plan to salvage the twelfth-century landmark from toppling over.

The project went through several phases. First, counterweights were placed on the base of the tower to slow down its tendency to lean. Second, the tower was harnessed with gigantic steel cables to prevent it from collapsing during the reconstructions and to pull it back once the groundwork was laid. Finally, the foundation was reinforced, and the cables were pulled to make the 180-foot-high tower more upright. Fortunately, the project was a success.

Left to itself, our nation today faces the same threat, which once loomed over the leaning Tower of Pisa: tilting and headed toward catastrophe. The effort to erect public officials who support policies more consistent with biblical teachings has been the project to save our Republic.

In his excellent book, Politics According to the Bible, Wayne Grudem explains the stark differences between the two major political parties in America:

“[T]here is a significant difference in the religious beliefs of Republicans and Democrats taken as a whole. Conservative evangelicals, who tend to believe that the Bible is God’s Word in its entirety, have tended to align with Republican principles. So have others whose religious views lead them to believe in absolute moral right and wrong, such as Roman Catholics, Mormons, and more traditional Jews.

“But people who have no religious belief at all, or who do not believe that we can know what God has told us with regard to moral standards, tend to be moral relativists, and this aligns them much more closely with the Democratic Party and its emphasis on allowing people to choose abortion or choose homosexual marriage and so forth.

“The differences between Democrats and Republicans today have great significance. These differences are not accidental, but stem from differing convictions about several moral and theological issues.”

Of course, some insist our system of laws must somehow be religiously or morally neutral. The truth is such neutrality is completely impossible. No system of government operates in a vacuum.

As the late and renowned Presbyterian minister, Dr. D. James Kennedy used to argue: “Every nation in history, without exception, has been founded upon some theistic or anti-theistic foundation – whether you go back to the ancient pagan nations of Egypt, Babylonia, Syria or Rome, or consider the modern nations today of England, the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, China or any of the countries, including the U.S. All have been built upon some theistic or anti-theistic foundation... Out of this theistic or anti-theistic foundation there inevitably grows a set of ethics or morals. These grow out of the religious substratum or foundation... Out of this theistic or anti-theistic foundation there inevitably grows a set of ethics or morals. These grow out of the religious substratum or foundation. All legislation is simply the enactment of some ethical standard that grows out of some religious foundation. When we understand this, which is so utterly fundamental to understanding the world in which we live, we see through some of the big lies we’ve heard so frequently in our time, such as, ‘You can’t legislate morality.’ How many times have we heard that, as if that were true as the fact that the sun rises in the morning?

“The truth of the matter is, my friends, you can’t legislate anything but moral morality. We pass laws because something is moral or immoral. We have laws against killing because it’s immoral to kill. We have laws against rape because it’s immoral to rape. We have laws against child abuse because it’s immoral to abuse children.”

For several decades, America has been sliding morally downward. Godless and immoral people have had an undue influence on public policy. Since the election of Ronald Reagan as President, however, religious and political conservatives have tried to pull the nation back from spiritual and ethical collapse. Although far from perfect, overall, the persons elected with political positions more aligned with an orthodox Christian worldview have worked to save us. But the candidates elected that didn’t base their politics on such timeless verities have undermined our foundation and taken us down a dangerous path.

We are now at a tipping point, and the differences between the candidates and the two parties represented couldn’t be more precise. This is a time of great testing for our country.

Gary DeMar, in his book, God and Government, summarizes what I think is at stake in the 2020 Election:

“The battle today is over lordship. The issue of politics today is the issue of sovereignty. Who is the Lord of all of life to whom man must give his total allegiance, Christ or Caesar? The answer to this question is the difference between liberty and slavery, justice, and tyranny... Is this to be a Christian nation or a humanistic nation? The only faithful answer that a Bible-believing Christian can give us is: ‘Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord’ (Ps. 33:12). ‘For the Lord is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; He will save us’ (Is. 33:21)... If Scripture speaks to the civil government [and it does], then civil government must be called upon to acknowledge the Lord of Scripture and be reconstructed according to his demands.”

Generally speaking, one side in the race for power believes this, while the other side either denies it or fugits to possess faith. This is not an oversimplification of the matter but an irrefutable fact.

The political choice in front of us is either Christ or chaos. Either our grand tower of freedom, which is severely listing, will stand or fall. The project to save our Republic will largely depend on whether American Christians vote and vote biblically.

Reverend Dr. Mark Creech is Executive Director of the NC Christian Action League. You may contact him at rev.markcreech@christianactionleague.org or 919-787-0606.
By Miguel Cruz

Yancey County

Healthy Bowels, sweeping clean the inside of the Temple.

There has been much research in the last few years talking about the health of our bowels as it relates to overall health. Most health experts will agree that a daily bowel movement should be expected if all the plumbing is working right. Most of us know what it feels like when we get backed up, MISERABLE.

Colon cancer has also been associated with poor bowel habits and a lack of fiber in the diet. In this article I’m going to give you the recipe I give my patients for getting fiber in the diet and getting the plumbing moving, I call it “Triple Relief.”

Take equal parts of flax seeds, chia seeds, and psyllium husks. Grind them together in a blender for about 1 minute and then store the ground mixture in a jar kept in the refrigerator. The Chia and flax contain essential oils that are extremely healthy for you but can go rancid if stored outside the refrigerator.

Take 1 to 3 tablespoons during the day at different times. This combination is very versatile and easy to take because it actually tastes good. You can put it on yogurt or cereals, add it to soups, sprinkle it on vegetables, or simply mix it in water, juice, or smoothies.

If you find yourself going days between bowel movements or having to take laxatives daily, try adding this to the diet. There have been very few people I have recommended this to that did not get results. Of course, this is not a cure-all for the bowels, there may be other things at work which would require a thorough examination to see what else may be contributing. Give it a try and if you have any questions feel free to e-mail me at drmacruz@icloud.com

God Bless

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.

---

Humor

First Baptist of Marshall
Laughter is Healthy for You

By Buddy Freeman
Madison County

A lawyer discovered that one of his ancestors had been hanged for cattle stealing. To hide the fact, he rewrote the family history, thus “Grandfather died while taking part in a public ceremony when the platform gave away.”

A little boy asked a girl, “Did you hear about the 88-year-old man and the 79-year-old lady that got married?” The little girl asked, “Did they throw rice at them?” The little boy said, “No, they threw vitamin pills.”

James Boen says, “I got the bill for my surgery. Now I know why doctors wear masks.”

A pastor search committee inquired of a prospective preacher. He asked, “Why did you leave your last church?” The pastor replied, “Sickness and fatigue! Church members were sick of me and I was tired of being their pastor.”

Someone said that half of the Baptist Church members are willing to work and the other half are willing to let them.

One friend said to another: “Jack, you can drive the car and I will pray.” Tom replied, “What’s the matter! Don’t you trust my driving?” Jack replied, “Don’t you trust my praying?”

A little boy climbed into bed, said his prayer, and called out, “Mama, Papa, I am all ready for bed. Do you want anything?”

Dr. Buddy Freeman is the former pastor of the First Baptist Church of Marshall, NC.

Spiritual Health

Triple Relief

By Miguel Cruz
Yancy County

Healthy Bowels, sweeping clean the inside of the Temple.

There has been much research in the last few years talking about the health of our bowels as it relates to overall health. Most health experts will agree that a daily bowel movement should be expected if all the plumbing is working right. Most of us know what it feels like when we get backed up, MISERABLE.

Colon cancer has also been associated with poor bowel habits and a lack of fiber in the diet. In this article I’m going to give you the recipe I give my patients for getting fiber in the diet and getting the plumbing moving, I call it “Triple Relief.”

Take equal parts of flax seeds, chia seeds, and psyllium husks. Grind them together in a blender for about 1 minute and then store the ground mixture in a jar kept in the refrigerator. The Chia and flax contain essential oils that are extremely healthy for you but can go rancid if stored outside the refrigerator.

Take 1 to 3 tablespoons during the day at different times. This combination is very versatile and easy to take because it actually tastes good. You can put it on yogurt or cereals, add it to soups, sprinkle it on vegetables, or simply mix it in water, juice, or smoothies.

If you find yourself going days between bowel movements or having to take laxatives daily, try adding this to the diet. There have been very few people I have recommended this to that did not get results. Of course, this is not a cure-all for the bowels, there may be other things at work which would require a thorough examination to see what else may be contributing. Give it a try and if you have any questions feel free to e-mail me at drmacruz@icloud.com

God Bless

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.

---

Happy Thanksgiving

Price cuttin’...it’s what Red does best.

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

Happy Thanksgiving
Perfect Imprint Of God - Hebrews 1:3
By Glenda Ward
McDowell County

Two distinct descriptions of Jesus, Him being appointed heir of all things. Who is a representation of the “brightness” of God’s glory, an exact imprint of the Father’s nature.

What does this mean for us?
Jesus is the brilliance, the “radiance” of the Father that shines in our lives, manifesting the Love of God, illuminating our way to the Father. He describes Himself as the light of the world; the One we have been called to follow. We are to become a just representation of Him as He reflected the Father to us. Jesus is the brilliance of God’s glory. John 1 says, “In Him Jesus was life, and that life was the light of men.” Without the Spiritual Light of God, we would be lost in spirit and in “the shadow of death”. When Jesus came to earth, He brought to us the spiritual light of God illuminating our way which frees those who take it in, delivering them from death.

But Jesus is more than the Spiritual Light. He is also the imprint of God’s nature, a visible representation of God our Father. He presented God in a way that we, as humans, could understand. We see a Father who cares enough to seek out the lost and patiently guide them into His arms. When being at our worst God has a spiritual eye to see the goodness and possibilities in everyone. We see it in the wisdom and truth that are ours to receive from Him. Discovering God’s nature is an adventure that we’ll spend an eternity experiencing. As we grow closer to Jesus, we can increasingly radiate God’s Spirit to others in this life.

God speaks to us through Christ. Jesus Christ is an exact imprint of God. His nature is identical to that of God. Christ is divine, exactly as God is divine. The reference of Jesus Christ sitting at the “right hand” of the Father is symbolic of honor and power. One that is considered trustworthy and given the power of that of a King. Jesus seated at the right hand of God the Father shows absolute power and authority. The book of Hebrews supports Jesus Christ as being superior to all other beings and all other things. We can understand God by looking at Jesus. Jesus told His disciples a few days before His crucifixtion; “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him” (John 14:6-7). Jesus told the people that He was the Son of God and He did only what He saw God doing and what God told Him to do and by that, they have seen God by seeing Him. Jesus is the perfect imprint of God’s nature manifest in the flesh. “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory” (Hebrews 1:3), the visible demonstration of our divine God. To understand God’s full nature, we must understand and know who Jesus is and what part He had to play in history. Jesus shows us the exact image of God by the work He has done, by showing us the Father in both the creation and purification for sins.

Jesus is salvation: God sent His light to us – Jesus is the source of eternal life, and when we take Jesus into our lives, we start to be filled with the brightness and radiance of God. The Bible says that we are created in God’s image (Genesis 1:27). As believers in Christ Jesus, we get to share in the glory of God and reflect His nature as well. We bring God glory as we authenticate the hope of Christ to the world. (Reference John 15:8). We are all showing our face, beholding the glory of God as we are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18). We are being used to leave an imprint, a distinct impression that validates the message of God’s Word is genuine, and that our love for one another demonstrates our Christian faith. Jesus was talking to His disciples in (John 13:34-35) when He said, “A new command I give you: Love one another, as I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another”. We, ourselves are to bear evidence of Jesus’ message of hope – God’s Word. We should always be prepared to answer to anyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope we have in Jesus Christ. (Reference 1 Peter 3:15-16)

It is the Christian who can confess that Jesus died for me. Christ’s death on the cross for you and me is the focal point of the entire Christian faith and without it, there is no hope! Christ’s death on the cross for worldly sin took care of God’s wrath against all humanity. He arose again on the third day, overcoming death and the grave. Because Christ lives, we also will live if we believe in His life, His purpose, death, and resurrection. Because of Christ’s resurrection, our resurrection is assured. Christ Jesus has won the ultimate victory and invites us to share in that victory by accepting Him as our personal savior. We will never reflect Christ perfectly, but we must strive to reflect Him to others so that we can leave an imprint of Christ each day of our life journey, wherever we go.

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory of eternal life through Jesus Christ!

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.
Pause...and Consider

Give Thanks...And Receive
By Ken and Jan Merop
Avery County

Celebrating Thanksgiving with family and friends is a tradition we embrace.
The food of choice is usually turkey and all the trimmings.
But in our Italian tradition, ethnic foods are added to the feast.

My Aunt Sue rearranged her living room and
dining to hold several beautifully set long tables so family and friends could all fit.
Antipasto, salad, and bread were followed by lasagna. By the time the turkey made its appearance we were groaning.
But, that wasn’t the end. Pies and cakes followed. And just when we were all so stuffed we could hardly move nuts and fruit appeared.
The food alone was a reason for giving thanks.
But what if such bounty is not affordable? What if chipped plates, unmatched glasses, and the barest of necessities are what is set before us? Is it any less reason to give thanks?

In the Bible, we are instructed to give thanks in every circumstance. Not necessarily for every circumstance...but in everything. In other words, even when times may not be plentiful; even when things may look bleak; even then, give thanks because God wants us to have thankful hearts. He responds to such hearts with His presence and guidance.

When we turn to God with thankful hearts even amid troubles, our eyes become fixed on Him instead of the circumstances. When that happens, we see more clearly His hand of provision or touch of comfort.

But if we focus on the problems, anxiety creeps in and everything becomes larger than life.

I panicked when my husband, Ken, wasn’t able to continue living with us in our first home because of a mold situation that only affected him. Anxiety set in and robbed me of peace and I found it hard to concentrate and make wise decisions.

When a friend asked how I was doing, I responded, “Well, under the circumstances...”

He then replied that I shouldn’t look for God through my circumstances, but look at my circumstances through God’s perspective. As my focus changed, peace returned, and together with the help of generous friends, solutions fell into place and we rejoiced in God’s provisions.

That’s why Philippians 4:6, NKJV, is so meaningful when it says, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

So, give thanks, and receive God’s promises. Selah

God Speaks

Open God’s book, the Bible. It is His love letter to you and me.
Read with open heart, eyes, and ears. Discern with a loving and willing spirit in tune with God’s Holy Spirit.
The Light will come on and illumine you.
Seek Him as the shepherds and wise men did long ago.

“And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”
Jeremiah 29:13

Dave Says

By Dave Ramsey
Try to help him, but move slowly

Dear Dave,
My boyfriend lives in a different state, and I’m planning to move there when we get married. I know I love him, but sometimes he is not what I consider to be responsible with money. There have been times in the past when he has taken out small loans or paid bills late to buy something he wanted. How can I talk to him about this?
Heather

Dear Heather,
If it were me, I think I’d make sure things move a little more slowly in the relationship until he gets his spending under control. Sometimes when things like this happen it’s just a situation where a person needs to learn the benefits of budgeting and handling money in a mature, responsible way. You can’t do something if you haven’t been taught how to do it, and hopefully, this is the case with your boyfriend.

You mentioned marriage, so that tells me you’re both taking this relationship seriously—that you’re in the process of making sure you want to spend the rest of your lives with each other. Bring it up gently, and tell him why you’re concerned. Share your hopes and dreams for the future with him. You might even offer to help him make out a monthly budget. That way, once he understands the process and value of spending money on paper before the month begins, it will be easier for him to stick to it. Good luck, Heather! Dave

Idea behind the legacy drawer

Dear Dave,
A friend recently told me about you and your teachings about money. While we were talking, she mentioned something called a “legacy drawer” for important papers. Can you explain more about this?
Anna

Dear Anna,
Simply put, a legacy drawer is a collection of your essential documents in a safe place where you keep all the pieces of your financial life—your will, living trust, and lockbox access information, and any other instructions for and information about your last wishes and what you leave behind.

You should also include stuff like the power of attorney documents, bank and investment statements, insurance policies, and property deeds you should also include stuff like the power of attorney documents, bank and lockbox access information, and any other instructions for and information about your last wishes and what you leave behind.

The stress and grief when someone becomes seriously ill or dies are bad enough. Don’t make it any harder than it has to be by leaving your finances and other necessities in a mess!

Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 14 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.

Sudoku

Solution on page 14

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.

www.brcnews.com

November 2020 - Blue Ridge Christian News page 28
The One Person that we as believers need to become more acquainted with is our friend the Holy Spirit. Way back in 1971, James Taylor released a song entitled: You’ve Got A Friend. Most of us, if not all of us have heard and sung along with this song at some point and time in our lives. A few of the lines in that song goes something like this:

When you’re down and troubled
And you need a helping hand
Close your eyes and think of me
And soon I will be there
To brighten even your darkest night
You just call out my name
And you know wherever I am
I’ll come running, oh yeah, to see you again
Winter, spring, or fall
All you have to do is call and I’ll be there—yes I will
You’ve got a friend---You’ve got a friend
Ain’t it good to know you’ve got a friend
Oh, yeah yeah yeah, ain’t it good to know you’ve got a friend.

We all need a friend, Amen! Life is too lonesome and the journey down here is way too treacherous to travel without a friend. And the good news is we have a friend in the person of the Holy Spirit. When the disciples had questions about problems who did they go to? They went to Jesus because He had the answers. When the disciples wanted to know about prayer, who did they go to? They went to Jesus and said, “Lord, teach us to pray.” What did Jesus do? He taught them to pray. When the disciples were stressed out about their lives, who did they go to? They simply called out to Jesus and He was there to get them through the messes of life. Jesus was their friend and they were constantly turning to their friend for advice and help. So when Jesus left His disciples, He didn’t leave them without a friend. Jesus said in John 14:18; "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you." We have two Comforters. One is right now in Heaven and the other is right now living within us. We have a friend in Jesus and we have a friend in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also referred to as our Helper and the other is right now living within us. We have a friend in Jesus and we have a friend in the Holy Spirit.

When the disciples wanted to know about prayer, who did they go to? They went to Jesus because He had the answers. When the disciples had questions about problems who did they go to? They went to Jesus because He had the answers. When the disciples wanted to know about prayer, who did they go to? They went to Jesus and said, “Lord, teach us to pray.” What did Jesus do? He taught them to pray. When the disciples were stressed out about their lives, who did they go to? They simply called out to Jesus and He was there to get them through the messes of life. Jesus was their friend and they were constantly turning to their friend for advice and help. So when Jesus left His disciples, He didn’t leave them without a friend. Jesus said in John 14:18; "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you." We have two Comforters. One is right now in Heaven and the other is right now living within us. We have a friend in Jesus and we have a friend in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also referred to as our Helper and the other is right now living within us. We have a friend in Jesus and we have a friend in the Holy Spirit.

When the disciples wanted to know about prayer, who did they go to? They went to Jesus because He had the answers. When the disciples had questions about problems who did they go to? They went to Jesus because He had the answers. When the disciples wanted to know about prayer, who did they go to? They went to Jesus and said, “Lord, teach us to pray.” What did Jesus do? He taught them to pray. When the disciples were stressed out about their lives, who did they go to? They simply called out to Jesus and He was there to get them through the messes of life. Jesus was their friend and they were constantly turning to their friend for advice and help. So when Jesus left His disciples, He didn’t leave them without a friend. Jesus said in John 14:18; "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you." We have two Comforters. One is right now in Heaven and the other is right now living within us. We have a friend in Jesus and we have a friend in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also referred to as our Helper and the other is right now living within us. We have a friend in Jesus and we have a friend in the Holy Spirit.

When the disciples wanted to know about prayer, who did they go to? They went to Jesus because He had the answers. When the disciples had questions about problems who did they go to? They went to Jesus because He had the answers. When the disciples wanted to know about prayer, who did they go to? They went to Jesus and said, “Lord, teach us to pray.” What did Jesus do? He taught them to pray. When the disciples were stressed out about their lives, who did they go to? They simply called out to Jesus and He was there to get them through the messes of life. Jesus was their friend and they were constantly turning to their friend for advice and help. So when Jesus left His disciples, He didn’t leave them without a friend. Jesus said in John 14:18; "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you." We have two Comforters. One is right now in Heaven and the other is right now living within us. We have a friend in Jesus and we have a friend in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also referred to as our Helper and the other is right now living within us. We have a friend in Jesus and we have a friend in the Holy Spirit.

When the disciples wanted to know about prayer, who did they go to? They went to Jesus because He had the answers. When the disciples had questions about problems who did they go to? They went to Jesus because He had the answers. When the disciples wanted to know about prayer, who did they go to? They went to Jesus and said, “Lord, teach us to pray.” What did Jesus do? He taught them to pray. When the disciples were stressed out about their lives, who did they go to? They simply called out to Jesus and He was there to get them through the messes of life. Jesus was their friend and they were constantly turning to their friend for advice and help. So when Jesus left His disciples, He didn’t leave them without a friend. Jesus said in John 14:18; "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you." We have two Comforters. One is right now in Heaven and the other is right now living within us. We have a friend in Jesus and we have a friend in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also referred to as our Helper and the other is right now living within us. We have a friend in Jesus and we have a friend in the Holy Spirit.

When the disciples wanted to know about prayer, who did they go to? They went to Jesus because He had the answers. When the disciples had questions about problems who did they go to? They went to Jesus because He had the answers. When the disciples wanted to know about prayer, who did they go to? They went to Jesus and said, “Lord, teach us to pray.” What did Jesus do? He taught them to pray. When the disciples were stressed out about their lives, who did they go to? They simply called out to Jesus and He was there to get them through the messes of life. Jesus was their friend and they were constantly turning to their friend for advice and help. So when Jesus left His disciples, He didn’t leave them without a friend. Jesus said in John 14:18; "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you." We have two Comforters. One is right now in Heaven and the other is right now living within us. We have a friend in Jesus and we have a friend in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also referred to as our Helper and the other is right now living within us. We have a friend in Jesus and we have a friend in the Holy Spirit.

When the disciples wanted to know about prayer, who did they go to? They went to Jesus because He had the answers. When the disciples had questions about problems who did they go to? They went to Jesus because He had the answers. When the disciples wanted to know about prayer, who did they go to? They went to Jesus and said, “Lord, teach us to pray.” What did Jesus do? He taught them to pray. When the disciples were stressed out about their lives, who did they go to? They simply called out to Jesus and He was there to get them through the messes of life. Jesus was their friend and they were constantly turning to their friend for advice and help. So when Jesus left His disciples, He didn’t leave them without a friend. Jesus said in John 14:18; "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you." We have two Comforters. One is right now in Heaven and the other is right now living within us. We have a friend in Jesus and we have a friend in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also referred to as our Helper and the other is right now living within us. We have a friend in Jesus and we have a friend in the Holy Spirit.

When the disciples wanted to know about prayer, who did they go to? They went to Jesus because He had the answers. When the disciples had questions about problems who did they go to? They went to Jesus because He had the answers. When the disciples wanted to know about prayer, who did they go to? They went to Jesus and said, “Lord, teach us to pray.” What did Jesus do? He taught them to pray. When the disciples were stressed out about their lives, who did they go to? They simply called out to Jesus and He was there to get them through the messes of life. Jesus was their friend and they were constantly turning to their friend for advice and help. So when Jesus left His disciples, He didn’t leave them without a friend. Jesus said in John 14:18; "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you." We have two Comforters. One is right now in Heaven and the other is right now living within us. We have a friend in Jesus and we have a friend in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also referred to as our Helper and the other is right now living within us. We have a friend in Jesus and we have a friend in the Holy Spirit.
We are living in a world of persecution! Would you agree? Seems like everyone has a difference of opinion; politically or otherwise. COVID has separated the body of believers and pitted us against one another. Churches are slowly diminishing and Christians are divided. What an attack from the adversary! How should we react as Christians? What do we do when people attack us because of our beliefs? I think we all can agree, it hurts to be persecuted. So how do you forgive those that are against you, even if they don’t deserve it? Romans 12 states, “Bless those who persecute you. Don’t curse them, pray that God will bless them.” So, the Bible commands us to pray asking God to bless them. I’ll admit that this is a hard command to follow. We are living in a time that people are harasssing you for standing on biblical principles and adhering to the commandments outlined in the Bible. But I truly believe that daily the Bible is being fulfilled before our eyes. 2 Timothy 3:12 states that “Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” Every follower of Jesus will in time face persecution if you stand firm in your faith. Jesus suffered persecution during His reign on Earth, but He didn’t give up on us. No matter how hard this life seems, we have hope. Don’t give up on Him. He has gone to prepare a place for us, Heaven. I often imagine what Heaven will be like…no pain, no sickness, no troubles. Wow, a place of perfect refuge! Hope like this gives us a reason to persevere. The enemy will attack us daily with discouragement and persecution, but remember we serve a Mighty God who is worth standing up for. Although we can feel defeated and alone in these trying times, our Father has not forsaken us. We have a purpose in this life, to serve and honor the Lord Jesus Christ. Let your light shine bright, no matter the circumstances before us. Pray without ceasing, lifting up your enemies to the King of Kings. Shine until Jesus comes, a better day is ahead. Our hope is Jesus! James 1:2-4, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” Realize that your commitment and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ is worth fighting for.
Gardner Webb

I Think I Need a Bigger Box
By Tracy Jessup

“The Lord said to Moses, ‘Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’” (Exodus 32:7-8)

In the late 1990s, Taco Bell television advertisements featured a Chihuahua who became an instant hit with the line, “Yo Quiero Taco Bell.” One of the ads had the little dog setting up a primitive trap to try and catch Godzilla. The trap was nothing more than a box propped up by a stick and the box was only slightly bigger than the Chihuahua. Underneath the box was a plate of tacos. The Chihuahua called out to Godzilla, “Here lizard, lizard.” When Godzilla was far away, he looked small enough to handle. But when the pavement pounded with the heavy footsteps of Godzilla, it became apparent that Godzilla is much bigger than the little dog had anticipated. As the shadow of the large monster draws closer, the Chihuahua looks into the camera and says, “Uh-oh. I think I need a bigger box!”

The covenant fellowship between God and his people fell on hard times almost immediately after its establishment. Before Moses descended from Mount Sinai with the tablets of stone God gave him, the people sought a replacement for the God who had delivered them from Egyptian bondage. Aaron, whom Moses had left in charge, attempted to keep the people from rebelling against God by turning to worship false gods. He devised a plan to give the people an image they could see – an image that would bring God down to their level and fit within the realm of their experience and understanding. He gave them an idol of gold in the image of a calf to which they bowed down. Aaron wasn’t openly breaking the first commandment by worshiping false gods. As a matter of fact, he built an altar before the golden calf and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.” Instead, Aaron violated the second commandment, “You shall not make for yourself an idol...you shall not bow down to them or worship them.”

The great temptation of our day may not be to worship other gods but to shape God to our liking. Instead of worshiping the Creator - “immortal, invisible, God only wise,”- our worship becomes self-centered as we make ourselves comfortable with the image of God we have created – one who doesn’t challenge us with the inconsistencies of our lives, one who likes what we like and hates what we hate. We prefer a god who fits inside our box.

The notes on Exodus 32:4-5 in the Life Application Study Bible (ESV) pose these questions for our consideration: “What is your favorite image of God? Is it biblical? Is it adequate? Do you need to destroy it to worship the immeasurably powerful God who delivered you from bondage to sin?”

Prayer: Lord, please chip away at our boxes and idols until the only image of God we see is Jesus.

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 Sanford 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.
We have all seen the disturbing images of violent and destructive mobs over the past several months destroying and looting businesses and property and attacking, injuring, maiming, and even killing police officers and other law-abiding citizens. While Lt. Governor Dan Forest has pledged that he will defend the police – not defund them – and that he will never allow destructive mobs to destroy our cities and communities, Gov. Roy Cooper has not done so.

In looking ahead to 2021, I plan to introduce legislation similar to that proposed by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, and partner with Sen. Chuck Edwards to withhold sales tax revenue from counties and municipalities who defund their sheriff and police departments. Following is Florida Gov. Ron Santita’s proposed legislation – The Combatting Violence, Disorder and Looting, and Law Enforcement Protection Act:

**New Criminal Offenses to Combat Rioting, Looting, and Violence**

1. **Prohibition on Violent or Disorderly Assemblies:** 3rd-degree felony when 7 or more persons are involved in an assembly and cause damage or property or injury to others.
2. **Prohibition on Obstructing Roadways:** 3rd-degree felony to obstruct traffic during an unpermitted protest, demonstration, or violent or disorderly assembly; the driver is NOT liable for injury or death caused if fleeing for safety from a mob.
3. **Prohibition on Destroying or Toppling Monuments:** 2nd-degree felony to destroy public property during a violent or disorderly assembly.
4. **Prohibition on Harassment in Public Accommodations:** 1st-degree misdemeanor for a participant in a violent or disorderly assembly to harass or intimidate a person at a public accommodation, such as a restaurant.
5. **RICO Liability:** RICO liability attaches to anyone who organizes or funds a violent or disorderly assembly.

### Increased Penalties

1. **Mandatory Minimum Jail Sentence:** Striking a law enforcement officer (including with a projectile) during a violent or disorderly assembly = 6 months mandatory minimum jail sentence.
2. **Offense Enhancements:** Offense and/or sentence enhancements for (1) throwing an object during a violent or disorderly assembly that strikes a civilian or law enforcement officer; (2) assault/battery of a law enforcement officer during a violent or disorderly assembly; and (3) participation in a violent or disorderly assembly by an individual from another state.
3. **Government Employment/Benefits:** Terminates state benefits and makes anyone ineligible for employment by state/local government if convicted of participating in a violent or disorderly assembly.
4. **Bail:** No bond or bail until the first appearance in court if charged with a crime related to participating in a violent or disorderly assembly.

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.
By Dan Qurollo
Burke County

As I pen this article, early voting has just begun. It seems so many issues are at the forefront of our minds. What will be the future of America? Will America be awakened spiritually, or will America continue its downward spiral of spiritual digression? What will the results of the election be? Parents are pondering the future their children will be facing while acknowledging it is already vastly different than anything they ever experienced. Additionally, individuals are still battling the reality of COVID-19, a disease that caught the world by surprise months ago. Is there any relief in sight? What are we as believers to do in times such as these?

1. Maintain resolute confidence that God is in control. One of the tragic realities of recent months is that many professing believers have been governed more by fear than by trust. I am not advocating that we abandon caution, but we must never be governed by panic and distrust. Such lack of trust betrays the abundance of Scripture that teaches God is always in control, regardless of what takes place in my life. When my perception of how things are to be governed does not occur, I must maintain resolute confidence that God is in control. Psalm 37:7a instructs believers, “Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him.”

2. Exemplify a godly lifestyle molded by the Word of God. Romans 12:2 commands believers, “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...” The command be not conformed indicates these believers were being conformed to this world and needed to stop. The term translated world is not the orderly system known as the cosmos; it rather describes the current age in which we live. Tragically, believers have substituted biblical instruction with cultural ideology. Many are molded more by culture than the Bible. The issues at stake are not what mankind declares to be right; the issues are what God declares to be right. We must never substitute God’s instruction with man’s ideas.

3. Exercise your God-given responsibilities. As our culture continues to digress, those who are saved must take a stand against that which is wrong. Imagine where we would be if the apostles refused to take a stand against the ungodly culture by failing to live a life of distinction? What if Paul were shaped more by the world than by God? As believers, we have the responsibility to pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-4) as well as submit to civil authority when it does not contradict biblical teaching (Romans 13:1-7). As citizens, we have ways in which our voices can be heard that are right and proper.

In Matthew 5:13-16, believers are called to live righteous lives so that their light may shine in a dark and corrupt society. Without a doubt, our society is becoming darker and more corrupt. Tragically, many believers have chosen to hide their light in times such as these. Let’s determine to do what is right in God’s sight regardless of what happens.

Pastor Dan Qurollo is pastor Morganton Baptist Church. Check us out on our website www.morgantonbaptist.net or find us on Facebook and YouTube.
Trusting God with Every Injustice
By Joyce Meyer

Are you going through something difficult right now, experiencing pain or disappointment from a situation that just doesn’t seem fair? In this world, so many things are not right, and you don’t have to look far to find some kind of injustice. But one of the things I love most about God is that He’s a God of justice—He makes things right wrong.

I really love 1 Peter 2:23, which says that when Jesus was “reviled and insulted, He did not revile or insult in return; while suffering, He made no threats [of vengeance], but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges fairly” (AMP). When we’re being mistreated or enduring something difficult, it’s easy to want to take matters into our own hands. However, the best thing we can do is say, “God, I’m going to trust You to be my vindicator.”

Many people are used to trusting God for things—for a raise, for better health, or for the next great thing they would like to happen in their lives. But God also wants us to trust Him through things—when we’re experiencing difficulties or when life isn’t working out the way we hoped it would. Trusting God allows us to enjoy our lives even when everything is not the way we want it to be. For instance, maybe you’ve worked harder than ever at your job but still haven’t received a promotion or a raise. Maybe a coworker who doesn’t seem to work as hard as you gets the promotion you wanted. I know what this is like. Years ago when this happened to me, I immediately thought, It’s not fair!

And I had a choice to make. I could choose to be angry and bitter toward the person involved and try to vindicate myself, or I could choose to trust God to make wrong things right, knowing that He could pay me back for any injustice done to me.

I want you to know I understand what it’s like to have to make this choice, and that it is never easy. For my first 23 years of life, I endured a lot of painful experiences that left me bitter, resentful, and constantly blaming other people. As a child, I was sexually abused by my father. My mother eventually found out, but fear prevented her from confronting the issue, so the abuse went on for years. When I turned eighteen, I married the first man who came along because I was convinced no other man would ever want me. But this only led to more pain. We ended up divorced after I discovered he was cheating on me with other women and was involved in criminal activities.

When we’re hurt or mistreated, it’s easy to have an attitude that says, Someone owes me. I sure did. For years, I tried to “collect” from people who had no way of paying me back. Because a man (my father) hurt me, I found myself trying to make other men pay. And it affected every area of my life destructively.

Thankfully, as I began to read and study God’s Word, I discovered that God wants to be our vindicator, and He can restore everything we’ve lost through injustices we’ve experienced.

Isaiah 61:7-8 (NIV) says, “Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours.” For I, the Lord, love justice...” This is basically saying if we will trust God, He will give us double for our trouble!

Through Scriptures like this, God helped me understand that no person can ever pay me back for what I went through—but He can. When I finally began trusting God to be my vindicator—when I got my eyes off of everyone else and focused on Him—it was truly amazing what He began to do in my life.

God wants to do the same thing for you!

If someone mistreats you, refuse to stay mad at them and trust God to bring justice into your life. I can promise you this: If you’ll stop trying so hard to get justice for yourself—to manipulate people and situations to get “what you deserve”—you’ll be amazed at what God will do for you as you place all of your trust in Him.

So, whatever’s going on in your life today—whatever you’ve endured and whatever doesn’t seem fair—I want you to know that you’re not invisible to God. He sees you, He knows exactly how much you can take, and He will deliver you at just the right time. He won’t be a moment too late!

Remember, God is the only One Who can truly vindicate you. He is the God of justice, and He can take your wrong thing and make it right!
Burke County Christians “are starting to see the consequences of their silence” on national issues. “At some point, we have to get off our couches and not just consume Fox News, but sort of be advocates for the type of government we want.”

So affirms Warren Daniel, a senator in the North Carolina state legislature. Daniel was speaking in a recorded interview presented during Hickory Aglow International’s first Zoom meeting on October 15. He was joined by his wife and research assistant, Lydia Daniel. Pat James, president of the Hickory Lighthouse, conducted the interview.

The topic of the interview was the “mountain of government,” one of the seven mountains of influence that shape our culture. The “seven mountains” concept was developed in the 1970s by Loren Cunningham, founder of Youth with a Mission, and Dr. Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ. These seven mountains - religion, family, arts/entertainment, media/news, government, education, and business/economics will form the theme of the next series of monthly Hickory Zoom meetings, according to James.

Daniel said during the interview, “is probably a God-given duty.” God “has given us this country and we need to vote for our leaders.” Warren advised that when we cast our votes, “Don’t vote for the person who you think you like. Vote for the person who thinks like you . . . . I think that a lot of voters, sometimes they make the mistake of voting for the person that they may think is more likable or, you know, has more decorum.”

Concerning the rise of socialism and Marxism in the United States, Daniel noted that this phenomenon reflects the contrast between “people that believe that government is God-given and people that believe that government is God.”

His wife, Lydia, remarked that we, as persons created in God’s image, “are made to be creators.” When the government “confiscates the fruit of your labor,” then it is “taking away your dignity, taking away something that gives you value and worth.”

The Hickory Aglow Zoom meetings occur at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. They feature live worship music, short life application lessons from God’s word, special speakers, and time of intercessory prayer that will be open to participants.

November’s Zoom meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. on November 19, will focus on the “mountain” of religion. Speaking will be Donna McCall, women’s campus director at Bethel Colony of Mercy in Lenoir, North Carolina. Bethel is a Christ-centered residential program serving persons addicted to drugs or alcohol.

McCall, a North Carolina native, describes how she married at age 16, and eventually “started drinking, partying, using drugs, and all those things which take you down the paths away from what God intended.” She was “dangling over hell,” when an auto accident left her “flat on my back” in the hospital for three months. There she “cried out to God,” and “He heard my cry.”

She says scars from a past abusive marriage and a subsequent divorce soon drove her back “into the same lifestyle I was in before.” Eventually, however, “I pursued the One who had been pursuing me,” and in 1994, she turned back to Christ. “This pursuit has led me to where I am today. I came through the fire and did not burn. I came through the flood and did not go under.”

Before assuming the directorship of the Women’s Campus in 2018, McCall worked as a realtor, owned her own company, and earned an associate degree in theology. “God has been so good to me and I love sharing what He has done for me. I also love helping the ladies who come to Bethel see what He can do for them as well.”

The link and passcodes for the monthly meetings can be found on the “Zoom Meeting” tab of the Hickory Aglow web page, www.aglownet.org/hickorync. Individuals may also subscribe to Hickory Aglow newsletters and meeting announcements on the “Contact Us” tab, or by emailing hickoryaglow2015@gmail.com.

Marion Stephan is retired and is active in His Place Worship Center, Marion, North Carolina.
It's Fall in the mountains. The Blue Ridge Parkway is glowing. Vees of birds fly south. And with less than a month left in the Orchard at Altapass 2020 season, the red barn is a buzz with activity. But it didn't start that way. Back in late February, hard decisions were made to first postpone, then cancel completely the live music performances. Then the 'hayrides' and the Apple Core Grill. After much discussion, they decided to turn the pandemic into an opportunity—time to return to the roots of the Orchard—the origin, the apples, the ecosystem, the education of the visitors—the mission.

Chairs were moved to the corner, tables reconfigured for social distancing both inside and on the back deck, and the sound equipment covered to make room for a Monarch Butterfly habitat. Although most have broken out of their chrysalises and started their long journey south, they left behind the milkweed plant that made up their diet. The "silk" is almost ready. Stop by and pick up a bag to take home and plant. Maybe a Monarch will stop at your place next year.

In June, we partnered with Penland School of Craft to create six stand up props that were installed around the red barn. Now kids participate in scavenger hunts to locate some of the things that keep the Orchard running. They complete their "map" in exchange for a bag of fun and educational activities.

With the grill closed, we focused on hot apple pie, caramel apples, and hand-scooped ice cream; all continue to fly out the door with the Monarchs. And we just added hot cider to go with the pie.

The Orchard realizes that traditional music is a part of the heritage of the region and their mission and are working on options to bring the music back in 2021. An announcement will be made when plans are finalized.

A lot is happening in this last month. Come down and share the fall with us. The Orchard is located at 1025 Orchard Road near Spruce Pine at mm 328.3 on the Blue Ridge Parkway and is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3), working orchard, heritage, and educational venue. Hours are 10 AM to 5 PM, open Wednesday-Sunday through November 1. Family- and pet-friendly. Wheelchair accessible.

Kate Groff is the Programs Coordinator for the Toe River Arts Council.
Lora Austin named Principal of the Year
By Cheryl Shuffler
Burke County

Burke County Public Schools has named Walter Johnson Middle School Principal Lora Austin the 2020-2021 Principal of the Year for the district. Austin’s fellow Burke County Public Schools principals nominated her for the honor, and she was chosen following an interview panel session.

Austin said being named Principal of the Year means more to her than any other award she has received because she was nominated and recognized by her peers. She said, “I am the biggest cheerleader for our district. I won’t have the opportunity to work with the best administrative partners. I can call any of the other principals to brainstorm and am there to return the favor. Of course, the HIVE (Walter Johnson Middle School) is No.1, but I am also there to work through ways to make learning meaningful and fun for all of us.”

Burke County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Larry Putnam said, “Mrs. Austin is very deserving of this honor. Her positive attitude, unending energy, and vivacious personality coupled with her educational experience and passion for students is contagious and makes us better as a district. Congratulations to Mrs. Austin on this honor, and we know she will represent us well at the regional and state principal of the year level.”

An avid Tar Heel fan and a triple graduate of Appalachian State University, Austin has been in the field of education for nearly a quarter of a century. She graduated from Appalachian State with a degree in elementary education, a master’s in middle grades education and an add-on master’s in school administration. She began teaching in Caldwell County then moved to teach at Walter Johnson Middle School the second year it was open.

From there, Austin taught high school English, all subjects and grades in middle school and was an instructional facilitator and assistant principal in Caldwell County Schools. In 2013, Austin returned to Burke County and has enjoyed seven years as a principal at Mountain Crest/Hillcrest Elementary, East Burke Middle School, and now Walter Johnson Middle School. Austin lives in Collettsville, North Carolina with her husband, Chuck, younger daughter, Hannah, and their three dogs. Her older daughter, Keely, recently graduated from Western Carolina University.

While a person who loves change and challenges, Austin finds that this year has been trying at times for everyone. These unprecedented changes include how students interact with school and learning. She said, “The families at Walter Johnson have been so understanding and supportive of our teachers. The students have been wonderful, and we haven’t had any issues with the different way that school looks for our students.”

She sees several positives coming out of the different school in 2020:
- Students will be pros at adapting to different online learning platforms.
- Students will have learned valuable problem-solving skills. Something is not “working” with their assignment; they have learned ways to persist and figure out how to fix that problem.
- Students are seeing different ways to inquire and ask teachers questions. Clearer ways to communicate are learned each day.

She said, “Being POY for BCPS makes me think about my favorite quote from Einstein on my office wall, ‘You never fail until you stop trying.’ And while I often fail, I look forward to my next learning opportunity and want to share that same FAIL (first attempt in learning) with the students and staff I am so blessed to have at WJMS.”

Putnam, Assistant Superintendent Dr. David Fonseca and Director of Secondary Education Felicia Simmons surprised Austin with the honor at Walter Johnson Middle School. She will be recognized at an upcoming Board of Education meeting and will advance to the regional round of principal of the year for Region 7.

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

NC Baptist Aging
North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry Receives Fire Prevention and Safety Grant
By Carol Layton

North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) has been awarded a $40,000 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant from the Department of Homeland Security / FEMA.

NCBAM will use grant funds to enhance its Priority #1: Prevention outreach to make aging adults safer in their homes. Trained volunteers will install long life, battery-powered smoke alarms, at no charge, in the homes of individuals 65+ who do not have working alarms and replace alarms that are more than 10 years old. In addition, the ministry will have carbon-monoxide alarms to provide in homes with appliances that burn fossil fuels as well as a limited number of Lifetone alarms for deaf individuals.

Properly-identified volunteers will canvas neighborhoods and ask permission to check residents’ smoke alarms. When alarms need to be replaced, new alarms will be installed in the proper locations at no charge.

To follow Covid-19 safety precautions, volunteers will wear masks and gloves and maintain social distancing. Residents will also be asked to wear masks during installation.

Individuals may contact the NCBAM Call Center at 877.506.2226 to request smoke alarms. Alarm recipients must be 65+, not currently have properly working smoking alarms, or have alarms that are more than ten years old.

Churches or other community groups wishing to participate in canvassing or installation may contact NCBAM at 877.506.2226. Training is provided.

NCBAM has been connecting volunteers with aging adults in need since 2009. Its mission is to help aging adults maintain their independence and quality of life. NCBAM is a ministry of Baptist Children’s Home of North Carolina.

Carol Layton is the Director of Communications and Administration for NCBAM at Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina.
Crossword

Crossword 260 and Solution
Across
1 Three times I was beaten with ___ (2 Cor 11:25)
5 Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and ___ send greetings (Col 4:14)
10 As she wept, she bent over to look into the ___ (John 20:11-12)
14 In the beginning God created the heaven and the ___ (Gen 1:1) KJV
16 The owl will ___ there and lay eggs, she will hatch them (Isa 34:15)
17 Take an ___ of manna and keep it for the generations to come (Exod 16:32)
18 Those who see you ___ at you, they ponder your fate (Isa 14:16)
19 and it vomited Jonah ___ dry land (Jonah 2:10)
20 ye ___ men with burdens grievous to be borne (Luke 11:46)
21 but he ___ the craving of the wicked (Prov 10:3)
23 He ___ the centurion to keep Paul under guard (Acts 24:23)
25 The LORD will fight for ___ (Ex 14:14)
26 look of contempt or scorn (Isa 5:27)
27 all our righteous acts are like filthy ___ (Isa 64:6)
30 the lizard, and the snail, and the ___ every side (Lev 11:30) (KJV)
32 Like a scarecrow in amelon ___ their sacred stones (Ex 34:13)
33 put off your ___ self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires (Eph 4:22)
34 so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of ___ (Acts 27:13)
35 midst of her by the sword (Acts 27:13)
36 I have made you a tester of ___ (Jer 10:5)
37 from this ___ (Prov 27:9)
38 I have done this with ___ (1 Sam 1:20)
39 Your plants are an ___ of pomegranates (Song 4:13)
40 attacked the camps of the ___ (2 Chron 14:15)
41 Lord, lay not this ___ to their charge (Acts 7:60)
42 That frustrateth the ___ of the liars, and maketh diviners mad (Isa 44:25) KJV
43 What ___ you that you keep on arguing? (Job 16:5)
44 who was ___ think that I could oppose God? (1,2) (Acts 11:17)
45 The Sovereign LORD has ___ by his holiness (Amos 4:2)
46 Drink no longer water, but use a little ___ for thy stomach (1 Tim 5:23) KJV
47 garden of God (John 2:1)
48 the Philistine said unto ___ Am I a dog (1 Sam 17:43)
50 he warmeth himself, and saith, ___ I am warm (Isa 44:16) KJV
51 put off your ___ self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires (Eph 4:22)
52 But the swamps and ___ will not become fresh (Ezek 47:11)
53 Not many of you should ___ to be teachers (James 3:1)
54 the ___ name for Esau (Gen 36:7-8)
55 Heaven and earth will ___ away, but my words (Matt 24:35)
56 God will bless us, and all ___ (Acts 11:18)
57 caught up together with them in the clouds to the Lord (1 Thess 4:17)
58 God will bless us, and all the ___ of the earth will fear him (Ps 67:7)
60 "Is that your own ___" Jesus asked (John 18:34)
61 seventh letter of the Greek alphabet (Isaiah 44:16) KJV
62 So Joseph bought some ___ cloth, took down the body (Mark 15:46)
63 to another faith by the ___ (Acts 11:18)
64 They divide my garments among them and cast ___ for my clothing (Ezek 21:21)
65 the holy of his hand, and ___ out heaven with the span (Isa 40:12) KJV
66 to seek an ___ He will cast lots with arrows (Ezek 21:21)
67 Break down their altars, ___ their sacred stones (Ex 34:13)
68 but envy ___ the bones (Prov 14:30)
69 and ___ (Isa 7:24)
70 ___ will afflict you with the boils of Egypt and with ___ (Ex 14:14)
71 ___ have I loved you (2,2) (John 15:9)
72 ___ took part in the first rib transplant (Acts 23:11)
73 ___ the wilderness by the ___ (Ps 148:12)
74 to another faith by the ___ (Mark 15:46)
75 ___ of the earth will fear (Isaiah 42:21)
76 ___ took over the kingdom, at the age of sixtytwo (Dan 5:31)
77 ___ is being corrupted by its deceitful desires (Eph 4:22)
78 ___ have I loved you (2,2) (John 15:9)
79 ___ took part in the first rib transplant (Acts 23:11)
80 ___ will afflict you with the boils of Egypt and with ___ (Ex 14:14)
81 ___ have I loved you (2,2) (John 15:9)
82 ___ took part in the first rib transplant (Acts 23:11)
83 ___ the wilderness by the ___ (Ps 139:12)
84 to another faith by the ___ (Mark 15:46)
85 ___ of the earth will fear (Isaiah 42:21)
86 ___ have I loved you (2,2) (John 15:9)
87 ___ took part in the first rib transplant (Acts 23:11)
88 ___ the wilderness by the ___ (Ps 139:12)
89 to another faith by the ___ (Mark 15:46)
90 ___ of the earth will fear (Isaiah 42:21)
91 ___ have I loved you (2,2) (John 15:9)
92 ___ took part in the first rib transplant (Acts 23:11)
93 ___ the wilderness by the ___ (Ps 139:12)
94 to another faith by the ___ (Mark 15:46)
95 ___ of the earth will fear (Isaiah 42:21)
96 ___ have I loved you (2,2) (John 15:9)
97 ___ took part in the first rib transplant (Acts 23:11)
98 ___ the wilderness by the ___ (Ps 139:12)
99 to another faith by the ___ (Mark 15:46)
100 ___ of the earth will fear (Isaiah 42:21)
101 ___ have I loved you (2,2) (John 15:9)
102 ___ took part in the first rib transplant (Acts 23:11)
103 ___ the wilderness by the ___ (Ps 139:12)
104 to another faith by the ___ (Mark 15:46)
105 ___ of the earth will fear (Isaiah 42:21)
106 ___ have I loved you (2,2) (John 15:9)
107 ___ took part in the first rib transplant (Acts 23:11)
108 ___ the wilderness by the ___ (Ps 139:12)
109 to another faith by the ___ (Mark 15:46)
110 ___ of the earth will fear (Isaiah 42:21)
111 ___ have I loved you (2,2) (John 15:9)
112 ___ took part in the first rib transplant (Acts 23:11)
113 ___ the wilderness by the ___ (Ps 139:12)
114 to another faith by the ___ (Mark 15:46)
115 ___ of the earth will fear (Isaiah 42:21)
116 ___ have I loved you (2,2) (John 15:9)
117 ___ took part in the first rib transplant (Acts 23:11)
118 ___ the wilderness by the ___ (Ps 139:12)
119 to another faith by the ___ (Mark 15:46)
120 ___ of the earth will fear (Isaiah 42:21)

Solution on page 14

www.brcnews.com

November 2020 - Blue Ridge Christian News page 38
Spring Registration begins November 16th!

New Programs
- Cyber Crime Technology
- Medical Science
- Mechatronics
- Emergency

McDowell Tech
Learning for Life

Classes Begin: January 8th

54 College Drive, Marion, NC (828)-652-6021 www.mcadowellttech.edu
Thank You to our Hometown Heroes!

PruittHealth @ Home - Toe River and PruittHealth Home First - Yancey would like to thank each and every one of our partners during these challenging times. You are the backbone, the front line, and the people that truly demonstrate what it is like to be "Committed to Caring".

PruittHealth @ Home
(828) 682-7825
Serving Yancey, Mitchell, Avery and Surrounding Counties
PruittHealth.com

PruittHealth Home First
(828) 682-7967