

VOLUME LXXI
MAY 2017

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF



The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23:1 ESV



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**CONTINUE IN PRAYER
FOR
PASTOR KEITH AND HIS FAMILY**



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**WITH SINCERE
REGRET; BUT, WITH
HEARTFELT
UNDERSTANDING,
PASTOR KEITH IS
UNABLE TO SUBMIT
HIS USUAL
MONTHLY ARTICLE
FOR THE
SHEPHERD'S STAFF.**

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Hecklers

It would be difficult for me to pick a favorite Muppet. Kermit is the obvious choice, but might Gonzo's absurd, dangerous, and ridiculous genius rank higher? Who hasn't sung about their food in a Swedish Chef voice? (Side note: if you haven't, I question whether or not you have any fun at all.) And how could we forget about Rowlf?!?

All that being said, I wonder whether or not Statler and Waldorf might be the unsung heroes of the Muppets. No matter how cheesy the shtick, our faithful hecklers offer their wares from the balcony. I almost feel like their presence was confirmation of Jim Henson's awareness (or even embrace) of the silly cheesiness of the show. No matter how lame the Muppets got, Statler and Waldorf were there to give them trash for it.

I've been working through the books of Samuel again lately and there's a unique story tucked up into 2 Samuel 16. Let me try to summarize the context for you: Absalom (David's son) fled the country after killing his half-brother who'd raped his sister. David whined about Absalom's absence and was making things hard on everyone. Eventually Absalom came back only to stage a coup and force David and his men to flee. All of this had come about as a result of David's sin with Bathsheba (cf. 2 Samuel 12.10). David and company are fleeing Jerusalem when we come to 2 Samuel 16.5-8:

When King David came to Bahurim, there came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera, and as he came he cursed continually. And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David, and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. And Shimei said as he cursed, "Get out, get out, you man of blood, you worthless man! The Lord has avenged on you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned, and the Lord has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom. See, your evil is on you, for you are a man of blood."

This heckling was very different than that of the balconied Muppets. Cultural distinctives aside, verbal and physical abuse have always been difficult to endure. Shimei is on the other side of a ravine and screaming at God's anointed king. Though a single man may not seem like much of a threat, a stray stone (then as now) could have done considerable damage.

In our family, sometimes we talk about the Shimeis of today. My guess is that you haven't had someone throw rocks at you lately (I'm thankful most folks grow out of that in grade school), but doesn't it sometimes just seem like a person takes it upon himself or herself to make your life miserable? Whether it's expressed in criticism or old-fashioned meanness, some people appear to take a great deal of pleasure in being nasty.


Did David deserve this abuse? After all, it was his own lust (and the resulting murder) that instigated the downfall of his kingdom. Might Shimei be justified after all? Not really, no. Shimei (Saul's relative) judged David for abusing his family, but of all the things in which David was a screw-up, abusing Saul's family was not one of them. David repeatedly sought the best for Saul's house even when they were actively rebelling against his kingship. David had done much that was wrong, but Shimei's violent abuse was not appropriate.

Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and take off his head." – 2 Samuel 16.9

Fear not. No one in our family has ever threatened decapitation of another person. At the same time, perhaps you've vented to a friend and he or she responded: "You want me to go take 'im out for you?" We probably don't wish genuine harm to come to our antagonists, but we do appreciate the sympathy and the verbal confirmation that we don't truly deserve that type of treatment from another.

David's response to his man's offer is peculiar and somewhat confusing, but I think we can derive some encouragement from it nonetheless:

But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the Lord has said to him, 'Curse David,' who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?'" And

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David said to Abishai and to all his servants, "Behold, my own son seeks my life; how much more now may this Benjaminite! Leave him alone, and let him curse, for the Lord has told him to. It may be that the Lord will look on the wrong done to me, and that the Lord will repay me with good for his cursing today. – 2 Samuel 16.10-12

Permit me to say up front that if your life is in danger or you are a spouse or child in an abusive situation, please contact the police. Christians are to fight against domestic abuse and bullying; we stand up for the oppressed and it is our responsibility to care for those who cannot care for themselves. David's situation was different: he had to opportunity to defend himself or to "solve" this problem. I cannot speak for what was going on in David's mind throughout all this, let's consider these practical truths from this passage:

1) If someone is calling your character into question, give thought to the accusation. I do poorly here. I'm more likely to join Abishai (or Captain Barbosa) and demand that folks don't dare impugn my honor. God prompted David to reflect on the content of the curses. Pray for wisdom when you are cursed. Does the indictment hold any validity? Ask for God's cleansing.

2) God ordains everything in our lives. When someone chews you out at Wal-Mart or if there is a distant family member who just never leaves you alone, God is aware of that. Sometimes God brings Shimeis into our lives to teach us to rely on Him. If God brings pain and frustration down the road through difficult people, who are we to question His goodness?

3) God will not overlook the wrongs done to us. When David's kingship was ending and he was commissioning his son Solomon, he had had time to reflect on what this man from Bahurim had done. "Don't hold him guiltless" David told crown prince (1 Kings 2.8). Neither you nor I will be king of Israel any time soon so we won't be the ones responsible for executing earthly justice, but God doesn't forget wrongs done to us. He's in control.

In the thick of interactions with antagonists, things are rough.

So David and his men went on the road, while Shimei went along the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went and threw stones at him and flung dust. And the king, and all the people who were with him, arrived weary at the Jordan. – 2 Samuel 16.13-14

It may feel like you're in the thick of a storm of angry words, rocks, and dirt whenever you have to come into contact with the hard person in your life. Rather than immediately assuming that God messed up in His plan, pray that He would reveal why He has placed "Shimei" in your path. Praise God for His sovereignty and trust that He will accomplish what is best for you.

By God's grace,
Pastor Caleb

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Hello Everyone,

I hope you are well and enjoying God's goodness. Spring is slowly pushing out winter in the Sierra's, although as I am writing this ministry update, Truckee received another 6 inches of snow.

The Lord has kept us very busy this winter. For us, this has been a season of not only starting new clubs, ongoing training, but also seeing how God has been working through the ministry of Awana in Nevada, California and Arizona. Here are some of the things we've been doing this winter.

Awana has asked us to help with starting a few new clubs in Arizona. We have worked with and encouraged clubs at New Life Baptist in Casa Grande, Calvary Chapel Arrowhead in Peoria, Extended Hands Ministry in Wilcox, The Way Movement Church in Goodyear, Calvary Chapel North Phoenix, Harmony Baptist in Apache Junction and Hope Community Church in Tucson, AZ. Some of these churches require very little help as they had experienced leaders from other clubs and some required more help. My main focus with these churches this winter has been to be available and find out how I can serve these churches get started right.

I was invited by Calvary Chapel North Phoenix to come and share with the congregation there about the importance of children's ministry and how they can use Awana to reach their community with the gospel of Jesus Christ. I also provided training to the leaders at Calvary after the Sunday service.


I was invited by several churches to engage in leader meetings after their Awana club night. The purpose of these leader meetings is to answer questions, provide customized training to these leaders and to challenge them to a higher level of discipleship.

I met with the Children's Director, Lisette Ramirez, of Casa del Padre in Reno. We discussed how they could use Awana at their church to evangelize and disciple the children in their community. We were later invited to share to the entire congregation about Awana. Casa del Padre will be starting their Awana ministry. We will provide training to this club in April. Praise God!

I met with pastor Buck LeGreco from St. Marks Lutheran Church in Elko about starting Awana at his church. Please be praying for this ministry. Pastor Buck will be looking for leadership from his church as well as the neighborhood churches to help start this ministry.

I was invited to share about the ministry of Awana at the missions conference at First Baptist Carson City. I

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shared that children are the most receptive mission field we can work with. In Nevada there are approximately 600,000 children under the age of 18, and we are reaching approximately 2-3,000 through Awana. WHAT A MISSION FIELD!!

I was blessed to share the gospel at the Sparks-A-Rama/ AwanaGames event in Reno and also the Trek Weekend AwanaGames and Bible Quizzing in Reno. I also attended the Journey Weekend Fine Arts, AwanaGames and Bible Quizzing event in Sacramento. These events are all sponsored by West Coast Honor Camp. What a joy to see these children and teens participate in these events..to God be the glory.

I also attended Awana Summit 2017 in Colorado Springs with our NCANN team of teenagers. Awana Summit is Awana's national Bible Quizzing, AwanaGames, Volleyball and Fine Arts competition. I also was blessed to see 3 of the teens from our area get presented with their Citation Award, Awana's top achievement level. Praise God!

Part of my ministry is to make "club visits". The purpose of these club visits is to encourage leaders and pastors and to share with the clubbers. During the last 6 weeks, I have visited approximately 15 clubs. There are times where I am the one who is blessed as I get to see how God is working in these churches. Here are some of the highlights. I went to Quinn River Baptist in McDermitt, NV. What a blessing to see God using Awana to reach these clubbers. I met with Pastor David Lewis after this club visit and he shared with me that his first two baptisms came as a result of Awana. An 11 year old girl and another adult in the church got baptized this past January...Praise God!!

Another church I visited was New Life Fellowship in Lovelock, NV. What a joy to see the fruit of this ministry as Pastor Verna Vetter and her team ministering to the children in Lovelock. What I really enjoyed was how Verna teaches her clubbers to develop a real love for the word of God. Very exciting!

That's it for now. Thanks again for your prayers, your financial support and all you do to partner with us to reach the children of NV, CA and AZ with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We feel incredibly blessed and humbled by your partnership.

Jeff & Judy Gilpin

US Missionaries/ Pacific Southwest

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***If you'd like to support our efforts to reach more children in Northern California and Northern Nevada, tax deductible donations can be sent to:

Awana Clubs

C/O Jeff Gilpin

P.O. Box 697

Truckee, CA. 96160

* Checks should be made payable to Awana with a note on the memo of the check "Gilpin Support- Acct. 319"

or you can donate online at awana.org/missionaries/gilpin

Jeff Gilpin is the AWANA Missionary our Church Family Supports

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***Village Missionaries: Raul & Teresa Corona
Field: Avenal, CA***

Spotlight Letter

Our Bible school "Escuela de Evangelistas Alberto Motessi"

On January we had Mr. Oscar Merlo's visit, the dean of our Evangelist Courses, who came to encourage our students to continue studying and put their effort to accomplish their goal. Oscar joined us for our Sunday worship service, and he was a great blessing for all of us. He was our speaker that morning, it was a very powerful message which inspired the congregation to seek God intensely, and to allow ourselves to be healed and used by God so that we may be able to do great things in His name. Oscar has been a good friend to us and we really appreciate his willingness to visit our students and church congregation.




Love and Friendship

On February we shared a great time of fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We celebrated Valentine's Day at one of our local restaurants, and we had the opportunity to invite several new people to this event. It was a great community out-reach event because we had the opportunity to pray for the new comers, and for the restaurant employees that served us that evening. We shared the love of God with others and we celebrated the friendships and relationships that he has allowed us to make and preserve.

Our son's graduation

We celebrated Josue's graduation. Our oldest son graduated from college with a Criminal Justice Corrections Degree. We were so happy for our son's accomplishment. However, Teresa and I are certain that Josue has a calling from God to serve him, but we have to wait God's time that always is perfect.

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Praying for our beloveds




We began a prayer chain for our family members, friends and acquaintances. Our specific prayer is for all of these people in our lives to come to the Lord and recognize Him as their one and only Savior. We are trusting in God to allow them the opportunity to know Him and worship Him alone. We are praying for many in our community and we are certain that God is going to do something big in this small community of Avenal

Our Annual Women Conference

March is one of the most waited month of the year for our women group. We celebrated and hosted our tenth annual women's conference at our church. We had 250 women attending. It was a great blessing! We praise and honor God for allowing us to put on this event which allowed young ladies and women from our community, and our surrounding communities to come and experience God in a special manner. We are happy that we had a great turn out and that many women had the opportunity to be touched by God. This is a great community out-reach activity in which we are able to spread the message of salvation with women and to celebrate God's greatness in fellowship with others.



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<p>I heard a wonderful testimony of a young lady who attended our women's conference and she was truly touched by God. This was the first time that she had attended a Christian church, and she enjoyed it very much. She is motivated to continue attending church and learning more about the Lord. We are certain that God will continue to do great things in her and all of those who are willing to seek Him.</p> <p><u>Prayer Requests</u></p> <p>We ask for your support in prayer for the event that we have coming up in the next month. We will soon be hosting our men's conference, and we are expecting great things from God. Please pray so that we may spread the message of salvation through this event, and so that those who do not yet know Christ will come to know Him as their one and only Savior. Please also pray so that God touches the minds and hearts of all that will be attending, and so that those who already know the Lord may strengthen their relationship with Him.</p> <p>Please join us in prayer for our entire community. Pray so that those who are lost come to know God and His love. Pray so that when those people who are in need do come to Christ, we are spiritually ready to help them and guide them as they learn to walk with God. Pray so that we are patient and understanding with new people and so that God may lead us so that we may help them.</p> <p>Please continue to pray for our church building construction project. Pray so that God continues to provide the people and the means which are necessary for us to complete our church building.</p>			
<p><i>Raul and Teresa Carona are Village Missionaries in Avenal, CA our Church Family Supports</i></p>			



EMAIL FROM OUR CRESCENT PROJECT MISSIONARY, MIKE SCHNEBLIN: "I've been struggling since last year with a health issue that reminds me of my mercury/arsenic poisoning of 2008-10. I've been wandering in the wilderness, mentally.

If I had any way to describe it, I would say that it was some form of dementia (watching my stepfather's descent into that makes me use that analogy to describe what it's felt like). Some of the symptoms have been extreme passiveness, lack of drive, memory issues, and sleeplessness.

Ministry has continued, but only the bare minimum. Since our last communication last summer, I've helped staff with our fall, national conference in Houston and fielded an impromptu, focus group on the banished, Turkish leader, Fethullah [Gulen](#). Many have fallen under the Gulen Movement's influence, which is an Islamic cult. It's not overt Islamic imperialism through arms and terror, but more of a covert group, using schools and professionals to infiltrate into societies.

Next, a group of us coordinators were able to bring our re-energized, women's conference, Without Borders to So Cal (they only schedule four per year and we snagged one of them). There were a few of us males allowed to attend near Temecula, in Southern California. A number of women from my area got to experience two days of this unique training geared to reach out to neglected, Muslim women. Many bonds were forged and lives transformed at this December conference (over a 100 women attended).

I was tasked with the A/V component, which was way over my head! Soundboard is not my strong suit in any way and we had a professional singer! God was gracious in bringing a soundboard magician(!) to my rescue so that I could focus on the slide presentations and music. It was successful and the Spirit moved in hearts.

Last year, I was diagnosed with low testosterone and the doctor wanted to put me on oral supplements. I said that I'd wait on it and I'm glad that I did. It would have permanently stopped production, or any possibility of producing, testosterone. It took me a year to come up with a safe, bio-equivalent procedure and product.

During that year, I became aware of symptoms that were pointing to gut inflammation from contaminated food (e.g. Glyphosate/Roundup residual found in certain processed food). This was confirmed by my doctor in January from my blood panel (i.e. Double the level of large particle LDLs in my blood system). It confirmed that my gut had become permeable, which disrupts the endocrine system (i.e. What messed up my hormones!).

In March, I had testosterone pellets inserted to bring the testosterone level up until my gut healed (by using probiotics, pre-biotics and avoiding antibiotics, chlorine water, processed food and GMOs). I went back to the endocrinologist for a follow-up and related that my sleep was better, but I still didn't have any drive. He noticed that my estradiols were high and that they needed to be metabolized. So, I'm on a natural approach to doing that. I'm trusting that my mojo will begin to return soon.

As a result of all this, I've let everything go to pot. Like I said above, it's a lot like dementia because all of your disciplines fall by the wayside. Finances have not been kept up to date, correspondence has been zilch. I have not engaged others unless I am engaged. I respond only when I am made to respond. It's been horrible. I feel like the zombies they talk about in some zombie apocalypse they keep talking about! I've been talking with other women and seeing the effects of our contaminated food system on their endocrine system and general health (e.g. Cancer, intestinal issues, mental issues, etc.). It's quite a widespread problem.

And it's hard for some of us to keep away from contaminated food when we travel or go to restaurants on a regular basis. I see the impact it is having on Fouad Masri, our president, and other Americans, when their bodies show how traveling or eating American-processed food is wreaking havoc on their health. I didn't have this problem when I lived overseas in Morocco! The food was clean! :/

I have to push myself to get out and do just the minimum of my duties. I'm going to take a step of faith (hoping I'll be ready, healthwise) to travel to Europe and attend to some personal business in July and visit colleagues in Morocco (and see if I'm able to enter without being stopped by their watch list). I'm hoping to overcome the extreme inertia that comes when choosing to travel beyond my comfort zone."...James 1:3-5 *Michael*
IE Area Coordinator

Crescent Project PO Box 7164 Redlands, CA 92375

(NOTE: Crescent Project is an American based Christian ministry with international impact focused on mobilizing the Church to reach Muslims with the Gospel).

Mike Schneblin is the Crescent Project Missionary our church family supports.

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**Johnson Canyon and Hungry Bills Ranch
Death Valley National Park, CA.
By Bob Jacobs**

CAUTION: This trip is only for those that have a high clearance, 4-wheel drive vehicle with experience in off road driving; and, have a lot of patience.

The Johnson Canyon road starts off bad and gets much worse as you enter the wash. That being said this area is very remote and not visited by most people. However with its mile-long stream, three springs and lush oasis of grapevine and willows, Johnson Canyon is one of a kind. William Johnson started a ranch in 1873 in the upper canyon, which was later named after him. Johnson built terraces and irrigation channels, and planted gardens of beans, squash, melons, and corn plus a fruit and nut orchard. His harvest was hauled over the rugged pass to Panamint City, which was located on the other side of the mountain. He made a profit on the vegetables; but, the trees hardly had a chance to mature before the Panamint City boom was over and Johnson left the area.

A popular hike, once you reach the trailhead at the end of the Johnson Canyon road, is the historic remains of Hungry Bill's Ranch. A Shoshone Indian named Hungry Bill took over Johnson's abandoned ranch. Hungry Bill was a quiet, 6'4" giant with an insatiable appetite. The ranch was abandoned soon after Hungry Bill passed away in 1919. Now, after almost a century of neglect, the few trees that still bear fruit only feed the coyotes. The old ranch sprawls on both sides of the wash, just past the head of the second spring. What's amazing is all the monumental stone walls, which give this area an unexpected rural flavor. They are several feet high, as much as 6 feet thick and hundreds of feet long. These walls are a work of art! Although they are not mortared, they are extremely sturdy and still intact. There are a few smaller stone enclosures with doorways suggesting living quarters, although the Shoshones lived here in "Wickiups" well into the 1900's.

In hiking up to the ranch there is only one problem, it is difficult to reconcile with the sparsely vegetated Death Valley. The canyon is so dense it is almost impenetrable. Unless you like trekking through jungles, you will want to avoid the wash and follow the higher trails along the gorge's rims. These trails are not the best and they are steep and rocky. They tend to split or to sneak back to the creek if you're not paying attention. To minimize frustration, stay on the south side, which has the most continuous trail system. The exception is the sharp jog in the canyon, where the creek must be crossed twice in close succession. Also, don't take the cairns too seriously, as they seem to indiscriminately point to good and bad trails. Even with this information, it will be slow going but is still a great hike, overlooking the green ribbon of shrubs, grapevines and trees winding down the gorge, within earshot of the hidden creek.

Johnson Canyon road is off the West Side Road in Death Valley National Park; and, it is ten miles long and ends at the Hungry Bills Ranch trailhead. If you plan on going on this trip see the Park Rangers at the Furnace Creek Ranger Station; and, get maps and information of the area.

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**Some of the many stone walls that are still remaining at
Hungry Bill's Ranch.**



**Prison Ministry
April 2017**

Once again, we wish all of you a very Happy Easter! Even though Drake is with us in our Jail services only on the first Sunday of each month, on Easter he came into the Jail and spent some of the day singing with us. It was a surprise visit! He and his wife were in the area shopping; and, while she was in one of the stores he took the time to give us a surprise visit.

Every third year, the State of Nevada Department of Corrections requires volunteer ministry teams to attend a day of training. This was our year to travel to Las Vegas (170 mile round trip) to receive this training. The class started at 8:00 am so it was for us a very early day. There were 40 people in the class we attended; and, it was good to have the chance to visit with some of them during the breaks. Even though our ministry has been going into the prisons for over 20 years; there are always some changes which we need to be aware of as time goes on. The instructor did a good job of conducting the five hour class; and, answered any question we had. It was made very clear to us that if we did not receive the training we would be denied entry into Boot Camp. It's good to know that we're **ALL SET!!** for another three years.

Every Wednesday morning, the Women At Prayer bible study group— **our very faithful supporters**— meet for their regular study time and they allow Irene some time to tell them about recent activities of the ministry. It is such a great time of sharing as we come together (also, it's nice to share a sweet and a cup of coffee with them). This study is open to any lady who would like to attend. If you would like to do so, please let me know and I will put you in touch with them.

At Inspirations assisted living home, we had a real treat. One of the residents celebrated her birthday and several folks got together; and, we had doughnuts for everyone. The singing at our "Sing Along" is always great; but, with that extra treat and also the extra people, we really "raised the roof". We sang Happy Birthday to Edie and, since my birthday was the day before, we added me to the birthday list. Surprises are really fun!

At the Nye County Detention Center (Jail), we were advised that there are now three pods of women prisoners. At the Jail, the pods (groups of prisoners) cannot be mixed; and, so this adds an extra hour to the time we spend at the facility. It is a challenge to reach everyone who would like to attend our services; and, it is not possible to see everyone, every week. This is a disappointment for both the prisoners and us. However, it is good to know that God is in charge; and, He will use our ministry for both our good and His glory.

Good news! One of the Jail prisoners shared with us that he was sure that he would be going to Hell when he died. He was so happy to know that forgiveness includes him. He has accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior; and, he is now forgiven and walking with the Lord. Praise God!

Please keep us in your prayers,
Irene Hunt, Chaplain

	THE PRISONER OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST	
	I. THE PERSON -	PAUL THE APOSTLE [For this cause I Paul]
	II. THE PRISONER-	PRESENTATION OF CHRISTIAN LIFE [the prisoner]
	III. THE POSSESSOR-	POWERFUL LORD JESUS CHRIST [of Jesus Christ]

**STATISTICS FOR APRIL
MATERIALS GIVEN**

Total Services—24
Total Attendance— 362
Total Team Hours —159
Ministry Miles— 698

Bibles—15 Daily Bread—77
Books—33 Writing Materials—122



AWANA AUCTION

The Awana Auction is a week away! If you have not already marked your calendars or bought tickets, do it today! Plan on joining us on Saturday, May 6 at 5:00 pm (to preview items); and, for a Panda Express dinner at 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$10.00 to offset food costs. If you would prefer to forgo the meal, feel free to show up around 6:00 pm as we start the bidding.

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The Light of Truth

“Faith is seeing light with your heart when all your eyes see is darkness.”

I don't know who said this; but, I do know this is something that has radiated over my life the whole month of April. I won't go into detailed details; but, the month of April has been one that has severely tested my faith.

For example without extenuating details – I went without running water in my home for over two weeks. Solving the problem inside my home led to problems with my well. This extended the “down time” with no water in my home an extra two days. Lord, help me!

Problem solved with the help of a Christian “Well Man.” **NO CHARGE!** He replaced the control box. **NO CHARGE!** The Lord heard my prayer and answered it!

“Crisis is Christ's!”

Plans were made for the following week. “Weeds in my yard were out of control!” But, plans were on hold for the next day because the next day was Sunday – a full day of out of house activity for me. So, plans were made for Monday.

Sunday, I woke up to a painful left foot. It was swollen and putting a shoe on was painful but doable. Sunday evening, medication begun to control foot swelling. Painful day, but I made it through it. Looking forward to a Monday filled with activity and progress on “weed control.”


Monday begins early. Foot still swollen and now throbbing. But, at least some progress can be made using the tractor. The peripherals can be postponed until the medication kicks in. Upward and onward with my planned activity! Weeds are growing with “nature” delight! Swollen foot and growing weeds do not mesh with my plans.

However, a Christian man from our church family volunteered to assist me without charge which I refused. However, I will join him to keep the charge at a minimal in “weed” eradication. He can use my tractor and I will use my “hula hoe.” Plan in motion?

After gas for tractor obtained, my expertise ended. But, tractor won't start! Battery replaced. Tractor won't start! All connectors are cleaned! Tractor won't start! So, added eyes solicited. Even then, tractor won't start! Now, four eyes delving into problem. Tractor won't start! Phone call to another pair of eyes. These eyes say, without looking at the tractor, the problem appears to be the “carburetor.” The tractor must be brought into the shop to replace the carburetor. Can't be done until the end of the week!

Weeds continue to take over. “Weed Whacker” not enough to control or even alleviate the problem! Lord, help me! Foot continues to remain swollen and throbbing. I then join my bunny population in “hopping” around the yard but I am no competition for their expertise in “hopping.”

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Every day as I progress toward the Saturday when my tractor goes in for “surgery,” it becomes more stressful; and, my foot becomes more painful. But, I arise on Friday to do my morning devotions and I remember I turned down a page from my Friday, March 31 devotion which was titled “I radiate the light of Truth.”

In part it read: “Whenever life seems dark, I turn on my inner light – the Truth of my being.” Therefore, I am safe and secure in the light of God; and, whenever life seems dark, I turn on that light of Truth. For it is God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness.” 2 Corinthians 4:6

