

Joint Efforts Result in Conversion

by Frank Himmel Colledgevue church of Christ Columbia, TN

Naaman was captain of the Syrian army, a war hero. He was also a leper. His story is told in 2 Kings 5.

In Naaman's day Syria made frequent border raids against Israel. During one of those raids a young maiden was taken captive who later became Naaman's wife's servant. She told her mistress about the prophet Elisha, whom she was sure could cure Naaman's leprosy.

Leprosy was among the most dreaded diseases in Bible times. It begins with brownish-red spots on the skin which turn into hardened nodules, and in time become ulcers. As the disease progresses the muscles and nerves are affected, resulting in deformity and paralysis. Naturally, one with leprosy would seize any opportunity to be healed. Naaman was no exception. Laden with extravagant gifts, he proceeded to Elisha's house, thinking the prophet would come out to him and ceremoniously cleanse him. Instead Elisha sent a messenger to him, instructing him to go wash in the Jordan seven times.

Naaman reacted angrily. This procedure was illogical and humiliating. He might have returned home without complying had not his servants intervened. They wisely pointed out to him that he was prepared to do some great thing to be healed, so why not do something as simple as dipping himself in a river? Naaman reconsidered, obeyed, and his flesh was restored to a childlike purity.

This account illustrates several important lessons and is an oft-used sermon text. I want to make just one point from it: Naaman's cleansing resulted from the combined efforts of several people. The Israelite maiden initiated the process by telling him help was available through Elisha. Then Elisha, through a messenger, told Naaman what God required of him. Finally his own servants played the vital role of encouraging him to obey when he resisted. Each of these contributions was equally essential to Naaman's cleansing. Without any of them he would have gone to his grave a leper.

Those lost in sin need to be washed in Jesus' blood. Every effort at helping them is valuable; none should be demeaned. And there is something you can do. Some are like Elisha, who can effectively explain what God requires. Perhaps more of us are capable of this phase than we realize. But if you cannot be an Elisha you can be an Israelite maiden, telling others that cleansing is available and putting them in contact with an Elisha. Or maybe you are a good Naaman's servant, encouraging others to do what they know is right. Barnabas was a "Son of Encouragement"; we need more like him. Some plant, others water. These efforts come together, and God gives the increase (1 Cor. 3:6).

Friend, every effort, whether large or small, counts. Your own conversion was likely the culmination of combined efforts of people who loved your soul. Now do what you can, unto God's glory.

If you have an announcement or prayer request for the bulletin please contact Wayne Carter before noon on Friday.

NEWSLETTER

June 05, 2022

Mark Dailey, evangelist
(716) 754-2752

minister@lasallechurchofchrist.org

Schedule of Services

Our current schedule is:

Sunday Bible Class 10:00 AM

Sunday AM Worship 11:00 AM

La Salle
church of Christ

We Meet At

1121 N. Military Rd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Phone (716) 283-1214

Website: lasallechurchofchrist.org



We welcome all who are here today.

If you are a visitor we are honored to have you with us. Please fill out a *Visitor Card* (on the back of the pew in front of you). We would like for you to place the *Visitor Card* in one of the receptacles provided at the front and rear of the auditorium. There will be an opportunity to give but as a visitor it is not expected of you. Thanks.



There is a nursery at the rear of the auditorium up the stairs if you need to care for your infant.



Read God's Word

We offer a **free** Bible Correspondence Course

Please keep cell phones and other noise making devices silent. Thank you.

Condolences It was announced last week to pray for the Provost & Phillips families from the Southside congregation in Rochester. Jennifer's 28 yr old nephew passed away unexpectedly Thursday night May 26.

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Prayers *In our prayers, let's praise God, recognize His greatness, thank Him for His Son and His blessings.*

Please pray as we continue our search for a gospel preacher.

Let's pray for the situation in the Ukraine and surrounding areas.

Let's pray for Christians in both the Ukraine and Russia.

Pray for the victim's families of mass shootings recently around the country.

Let's pray for Bill & Kris Kinney and all our families taking care of our shut-ins.

Mark & Audrey Dailey have been quarantining because Mark tested positive for Covid recently. Later, Audrey discovered she also had Covid. Things seem to be getting better.

Frank Marsden Let's pray for him as he deals with a heart issue and also the recent loss of his sister.

Butts Sumner is scheduled for back surgery June 14 and also June 16.

Anna Brink Let's pray for her for health issues and also dealing with the effects of chemotherapy.

Diane Mellott is dealing with severe arthritis in her right hip causing her difficulty walking. She is scheduled for surgery June 29.

Samantha Mellott is dealing with diabetes.

Darlene Reed is recuperating from surgery she had in March.

Hope Rice has been under the weather lately.

Lamont, Louella Hopkin's brother, has two heart aneurysms.

Glen Mueller Let's continue to pray for him and his family. Let's also pray for the Sardinia church of Christ.

Sharon Alcorn, Jessica Alcorn's sister-in-law, has terminal brain cancer.

Marietta McArthur (Ray McArthur's mother) is dealing with health issues.

Janine Galuppo, Ray McArthur's sister near Syracuse, is dealing with multiple health issues.

Sharron Gantt Let's pray that things continue to go well with her immunotherapy for bladder cancer.

Jack Curnew is dealing with eye issues.

Bruce Brink's aunt is having vision problems after having cataract surgery.

Wilma Patterson Let's pray for her for health reasons.

Goldie Crow had eye surgery recently.

Thank You to Michael Rice for preaching last Sunday in Mark Dailey's absence.

Upcoming Events (Lord willing)

Jun. 12 Men's Business Meeting

Jun. 14 Flag Day

Jun 19 Father's Day also Juneteenth Day

Jul. 04 Independence Day

Weekly Budget Amount \$1,843.00

Contribution Last Sunday \$3,193.86

Attendance Last Sunday 33

Financial Reports and Meeting Minutes are posted in the back.



Teens

Bible class for teens will begin **today** at 10 AM in the basement.

Mission Info Please check the *Mission Board* in the back.

Ukraine Relief:

John Kachelman, Jr. Cell (901) 626-4538 john@kachelman.com <https://kachelman.com>

For updated reports go to John's website and click on the tab for Mission Work.

Philippines: We support Caleb & Vanessa Callari doing mission work in the Philippines.

Caleb Callari's Radio Program - "Everyday Follower"

Do a search on YouTube for

Everyday Follower, School of National Evangelism - Philippines

via BulletinGold

Bless God for what you have. Trust God for what you need. In all things, pray without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

A happy home is not one without problems, but one that handles them with understanding and love.

No life is too broken for God to repair.

REMINDER

If you are the last one out of the building please make sure to close the door between the auditorium and the foyer and also make sure all entrance/exit doors are secure.