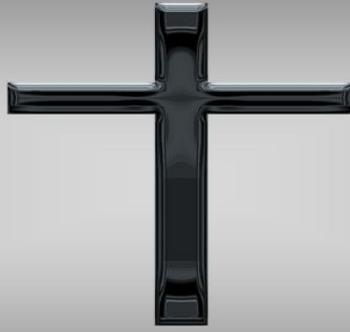
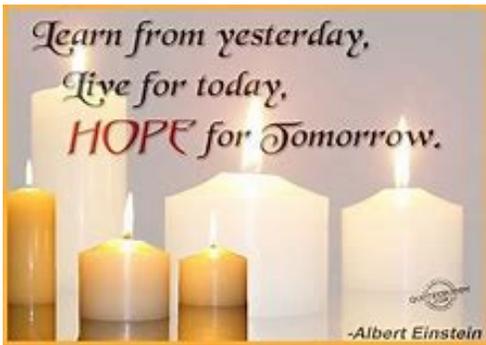


THE CROSS



“A CHURCH WHERE EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY AND CHRIST IS LORD OF ALL”



Why Is Sunday Sacred

How well do you know the God of the Bible? It's an important question, because the better we know God the better we will know ourselves. We will also experience great joy and grow spiritually.

our own sinfulness. To see His goodness is to know the wonder of His grace and the depth of His love for us. To see His majesty is to give Him the honor and praise of which he is worthy.

To see God's holiness is to see

(Sunday Sacred on page 10)

**September / October 2019
Volume 23 Issue 5**

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Visit our
Facebook page

Food For Thought

Life Is A Miracle

Life is a miracle,
And every breath
We take, is a gift.

Maybe this day is not
One of your favorites, but
Never forget that Every
Day you wake up, is an
Amazing gift, and it's up
To you, to make it count.

More on page 12

(Food on page 12)

HOPE

Spiritual Hope

Enabled Abraham to becomes the Father of the Faithful

Romans 4:18. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

Romans 5:5. And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

(Hope page 11)

How About "Thanksgiving" Every Week?

Every Sunday, in Ghana, you will find entire communities dressed up - families - father, mother and children all headed for church in the best outfits they have. Most public transportation operators, such as mini-vans (referred to as tro-tros) and taxis drivers also take off the day and head for church. The resulting atmosphere is a weird feeling to any visitor to the community. You would normally expect commuter rush hours in the mornings and evenings of weekdays. Yet on Sundays in Ghana, there are the other 'rush hours' when families get ready to attend and to return from Church.

Because of the festive designs of their dressing and the serene feeling on each person's face, you the visitor, get the strange feeling that there must be some phenomenon wedding or some other national celebration going on

(Thanksgiving on page 13)

From The Pastor's Desk



2020 Vision: The Year of Expected “Miracles”

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father” John 14:12

Dear Church Family,

It is our heartfelt thanks on our 27th appointment at the Cross. I, along with First Lady Eledia, return with a heart to love and serve the greatest people on the planet.

The conference year ahead will no doubt bring many challenges and changes as we continue to live in a world that has become increasingly hostile to the ways of the Lord. Yet, we are to still hold high the banner of Christ (and His Resurrection) as the answer to the needs of humanity.

Apostle Paul admonishes us to preach the Word in season and out of season. We begin the conference year with the spiritual mindset that when we fight the good fight of faith together, we win. Team Work Works. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

**We are seeking the power of the Holy Spirit that we might do the Lord’s work the Lord’s way. (Acts 2:1-13)
Our Focus this year:**

Discipleship/Evangelism & Social Outreach/Every Home for Christ

Creating a Crowd for Christ

Making Preachers / Ministry Leaders for the 21st Century

Generous Giving

Glorifying God in all that we seek to do – Ministry of Excellence

We can have assurance over any doubts that Christ will be there for us as we read in John 10:28 (KJV) 28 And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

We don’t have to walk one day or more led by a “spirit of fear” because we have been assured that God has not given us a “spirit of fear”!

Look ahead with confidence and boldness! Christ will be there for the Cross!

Blessings in Christ,

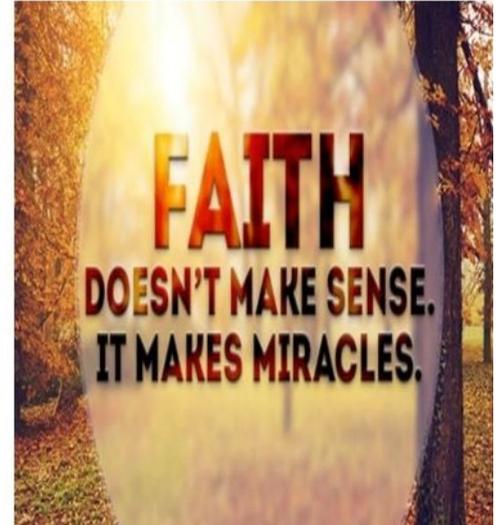
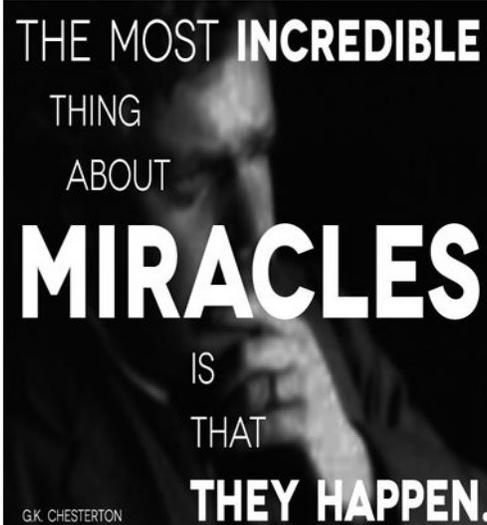
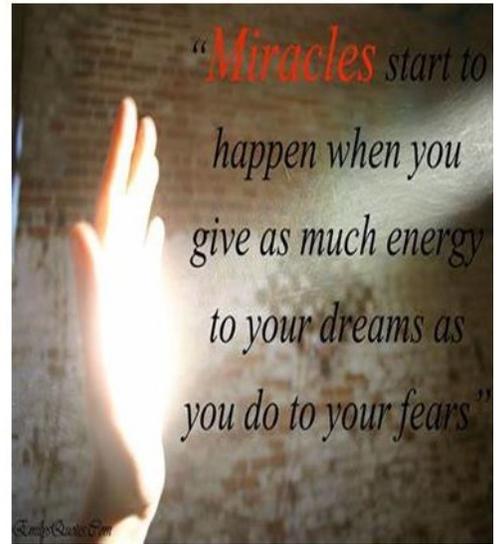
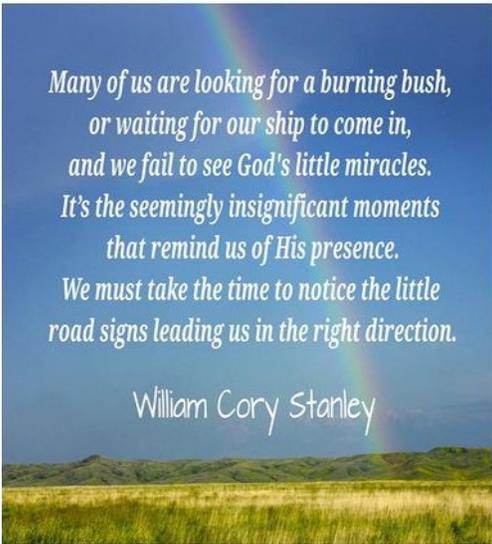
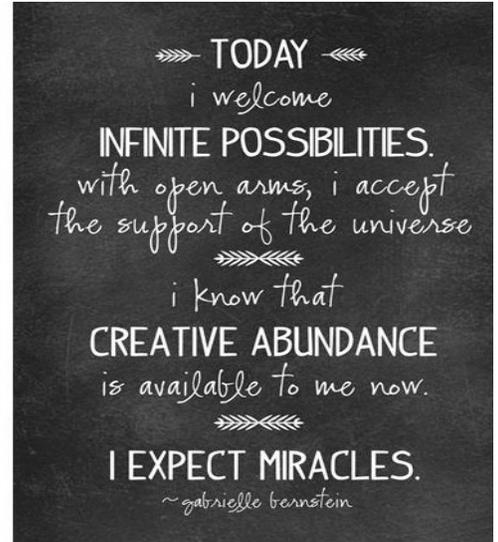
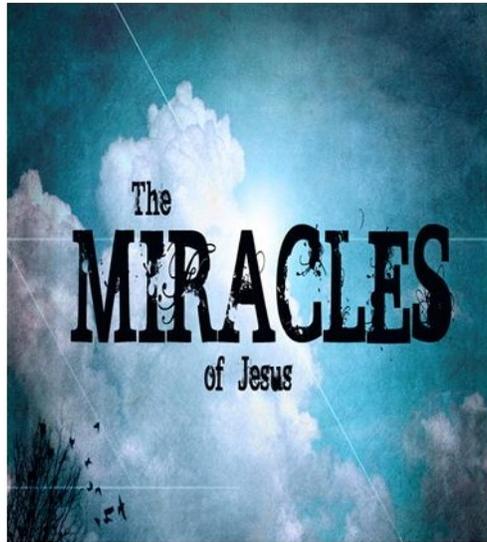
Pastor Moses L. Harvill

Let’s Get Radical

This is my church. It is composed of people just like me. It will be friendly if I am. It will do great work if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am generous. It will bring others into its fellowship if I bring them. Its seats will be filled if I fill them. It will be a church of loyalty and love, of faith and service. If I who make it what it is, am filled with these, Therefore, with God’s help, I dedicate myself to the task of being all these things I want my church to be.

2020 Vision

The Year of Expected "Miracles"



The fruit of the Spirit abides in us and it is up to us to cultivate it so that we may experience the blessing and the fullness of the Spirit. God is the husbandman..."He prunes, nurtures, waters and protects His own. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit will energize and control every faculty of our nature when our will joins the will of God. Then the "beauty of the Lord will be upon us" (Psalm 90:17) and "we shall bring forth fruit unto God" (Romans 7:4)."

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

"But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE: against such there is no law." (Galatians 5:22, 23)

The fruit of the Spirit abides in us and it is up to us to cultivate it so that we may experience the blessing and the fullness of the Spirit. God is the husbandman..."He prunes, nurtures, waters and protects His own. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit will energize and control every faculty of our nature when our will joins the will of God. Then the "beauty of the Lord will be upon us" (Psalm 90:17) and "we shall bring forth fruit unto God" (Romans 7:4)."

The fruit of LOVE when properly motivated "is pure, far reaching, forgiving. There is no limit to the good that LOVE does. God is LOVE. (I John 4:7)

JOY never fades, it is never destroyed by circumstances, it is unaffected by wealth or poverty, sickness or health. It is found in the presence of God (Psalm 16:11)

PEACE "is a tranquility of mind as a result of a right relationship with God". The PEACE of God in our hearts challenges sin at every turn and deals with it immediately in order to maintain that right relationship. (Ephesians 2:14)

LONG-SUFFERING means steadfastness of the soul under provocation. It means forbearance and patient endurance of ill-treatment, without anger or thought of revenge. (Colossians 3:12, 13)

GENTLENESS is sweet reasonableness, calmness and graciousness. It calms troubled waters, settles turmoil and heals strife. (James 3:17)

GOODNESS does good to others. It is kindness of heart and good deeds. It may not always be a gentle word, but a stern rebuke done for the good of someone else. (Psalm 33:5)

MEEKNESS disarms the stormy, tempestuous person. The qualities of mildness and gentleness in dealing with others. It is not weak. It is a high quality of spiritual strength. (I Timothy 6:11)

FAITH means faithfulness to Christ and His cause. It manifests itself in being a trustworthy steward of God. It is trust and obedience, belief in God's word and promises. (Hebrews 11:1)

TEMPERANCE is power, it is strength, having self-control. It means discipline. It provides balance to the Christian's life. It enables him to praise Him whether in discipline or testing. (Proverbs 11:1) (Information taken in part from World-Wide Keswick publication and Holy Scriptures)

Satan tries to imitate the real thing with an artificial fruit. As you can see, the artificial fruit is very much like the real thing and if we are not careful, we can fall into the trap of expressing limited love, temporary joy, numbness, insensitivity, manipulation, hypocrisy, half-heartedness, false modesty and choosing lesser goals.

THE FRUIT, *The Artificial Fruit,* **The Weed**

LOVE, *limited love*, **hatred**; JOY, *temporary JOY*, **sorrow**; PEACE, *numbness, carelessness*, **anxiety strife**;
PATIENCE, *laziness, insensitivity*, **impatience**; KINDNESS, *manipulation by kindness*, **pride**;
GOODNESS, *hypocrisy*, **evil**; FAITHFULNESS, *half-heartedness*, **infidelity**;
MEEKNESS, *false modesty*, **self-seeking**; SELF-CONTROL, *choosing lesser goals*, **lack of control**
(The Fruit of the Spirit, John W. Sanderson)

Lord Hear Our Prayers

God'

Great is your faithfulness, O God, my Father. Morning by morning new mercies I see. I know that your hands will supply all that I need. Thank you, Lord, for your loving care and supply in my life. I claim the promises of your Word today. I believe your Word, and I look forward to all you are going to do in my life.

You are Jehovah-jireh, my provider. You know exactly what I need, when I need it, and how my needs will best be met. Thank you for the delight you experience as you give me the desires of my heart. I love you, and you love me.

Thank you, Father, for your great mercies which are new in my life each morning. Your grace and loving favor are upon me and within me. Indeed, your loving kindness is better than life to me. Thank you for always providing me with my daily bread, and so much more. I rejoice in you and in the knowledge that you are the God of more than enough.

Thank you, Father, for caring about me and my loved ones. I know you want all needs to be met, and you cannot fail in meeting them. I praise you for the wonderful realization that you do fulfill all your promises in my life.

Thank you for your word which will never return to you void. I claim the promises of your Word for me, my family, and our lives. I take my stand upon the solid promises of your Word, Father. Thank you for meeting my every need. Amen

Spiritual Growth

Key Scripture: *"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:2)*

Key Thought: God's Word is food for growth.

Prayer: Thank you, Father, for showing me that as I desire and drink the sincere milk of your Word I will grow spiritually¹. All Scripture has been given by your inspiration², and I want to live by every word that proceeds from your mouth³. I will study your Word so that I will never need to be ashamed, because I will know how to rightly divide your Word of truth⁴.

As I walk in the light of your Word⁵, Father, I will meditate upon your precepts, and give myself totally to them⁶. Speaking the truth in love, I will grow up into Christ in all things⁷. Father, I deeply desire to fully know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge, so that I would be filled with all your fullness⁸.

I rejoice, O Lord, in the promise of your Word that tells me that I will flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon⁹. My delight, dear Father, is in your Word, and in your Word I will meditate day and night. You assure me that this will cause me to be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, and whatever I do shall prosper¹⁰.

Thank you, Father, for helping me to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To Him be glory forevermore¹¹.

References: (1) 1 Peter 2:2; (2) 2 Timothy 3:16; (3) Matthew 4:4; (4) 2 Timothy 2:15; (5) Psalms 119:105; (6) 1 Timothy 4:15; (7) Ephesians 4:15; (8) Ephesians 3:19; (9) Psalms 92:12-13; (10) Psalms 1:2-3; (11) 2 Peter 3:18.

Giving God First Place

Key Scripture: *"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty" (Rev. 1:8)*

Key Thought: You belong to God.

Prayer: Dear God, I realize I am not my own. I have been bought with a price - the price of the precious blood of Jesus.¹ I am crucified with Christ. Nevertheless, I live; yet it is not I, but it is Christ who lives within me. The life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.² I embrace your Word which tells me that I am dead to sin, and my life is hid with Christ in God.³

Because of your great love, I am risen with Christ, and I will seek those things which are above, where Christ sits at your right hand.⁴ Father-God, I commit myself to giving you first place in my life at all times. I will seek first your kingdom, and your righteousness, and I thank you for taking care of me.⁵

Your Word declares that my heart will be found where my treasure is. Lord, I want you to be my treasure.⁶ You are the one God, the Father of all, and you are my Father. You are above all and through all, and in all believers.⁷ Help me, Father, to keep you first in my life, and to keep all the priorities of my life in line with yours.

Father, I am so honored to be your child, and I appreciate the presence of your Holy Spirit both with me and within me.⁸ Lord, it thrills me to know that you have first place in my life in the here-and-now, and I rejoice to know that this will continue throughout all eternity, and we will be together forever.⁹

You are my love, you are my life, you are my breath, you are my all in all.

References: (1) 1 Corinthians 6:20; (2) Galatians 2:20; (3) Colossians 3:3; (4) Colossians 3:1; (5) Matthew 6:33; (6) Matthew 6:21; (7) Ephesians 4:6; (8) John 14:17; (9) Revelation 19:6.

THE ARMOR OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6:10-18
"... Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." v. 10, 11

The Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16)
Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.

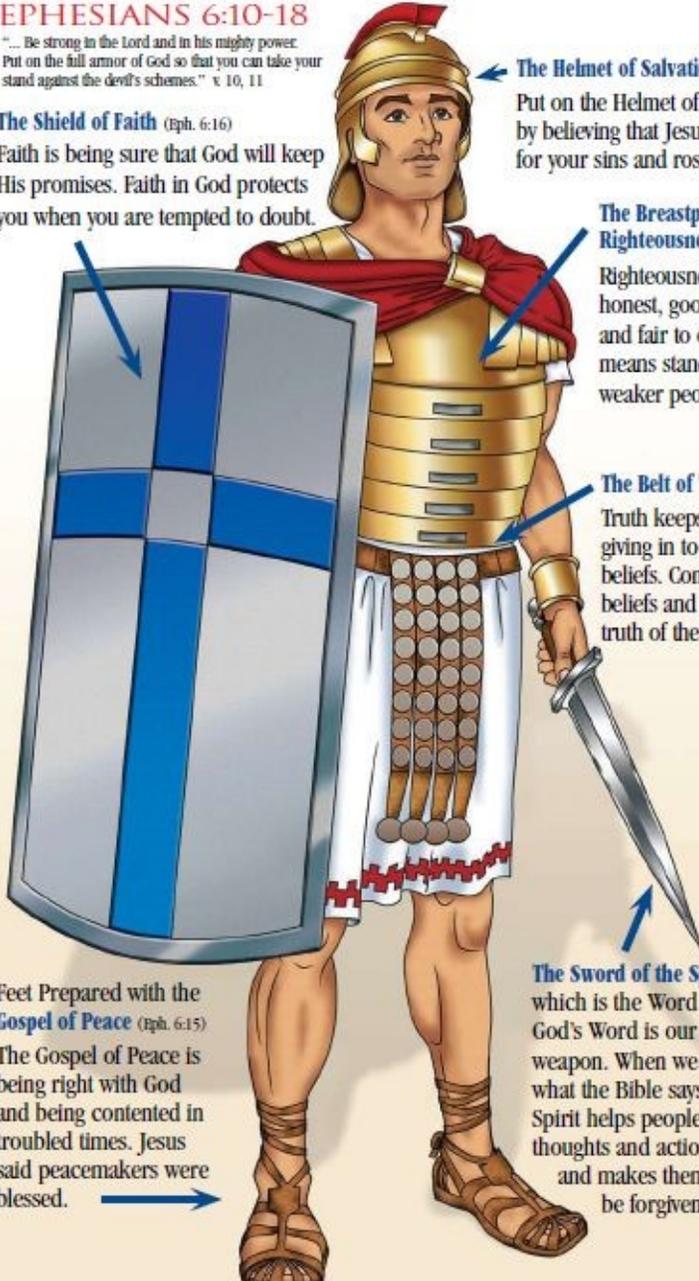
The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17)
Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14)
Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

The Belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14)
Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and actions to the truth of the Word of God.

The Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17)
which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.

Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15)
The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said peacemakers were blessed.



Ephesians 6:10-20 (New King James Version)

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,^[a] against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak

Read the BIBLE in ONE Year

SEPTEMBER

1 Jeremiah 47-49
 2 Jeremiah 50-52
 3 Lamentations 1-5
 4 Ezekiel 1-3
 5 Ezekiel 4-7
 6 Ezekiel 8-11
 7 Ezekiel 12-14

8 Ezekiel 15-18
 9 Ezekiel 19-21
 10 Ezekiel 22-24
 11 Ezekiel 25-27
 12 Ezekiel 28-30
 13 Ezekiel 31-33
 14 Ezekiel 34-36
 15 Ezekiel 37-39

16 Ezekiel 40-42
 17 Ezekiel 43-45
 18 Ezekiel 46-48
 19 Daniel 1-3
 20 Daniel 4-6
 21 Daniel 7-9
 22 Daniel 10-12
 23 Hosea 1-4

24 Hosea 5-7
 25 Hosea 8-10
 26 Hosea 11-14
 27 Joel 1-3
 28 Amos 1-3
 29 Amos 4-6
 30 Amos 7-9

OCTOBER

1 Obadiah, Jonah
 2 Micah 1-4
 3 Micah 5-7
 4 Nahum 1-3
 5 Habakkuk 1-3
 6 Zephaniah 1-3
 7 Haggai 1-2

8 Zechariah 1-2
 9 Zechariah 3-6
 10 Zechariah 7-10
 11 Zechariah 11-14
 12 Malachi 1-4
 13 Matthew 1-4
 14 Matthew 5-7
 15 Matthew 8-11

16 Matthew 12-15
 17 Matthew 16-19
 18 Matthew 20-22
 19 Matthew 23-25
 20 Matthew 26-28
 21 Mark 1-3
 22 Mark 4-6
 23 Mark 7-10

24 Mark 11-13
 25 Mark 14-16
 26 Luke 1-3
 27 Luke 4-6
 28 Luke 7-9
 29 Luke 10-13
 30 Luke 14-17
 31 Luke 18-21

NOVEMBER

1 Luke 22-24
 2 John 1-3
 3 John 4-6
 4 John 7-10
 5 John 11-13
 6 John 14-17
 7 John 18-21

8 Acts 1-2
 9 Acts 3-5
 10 Acts 6-9
 11 Acts 10-12
 12 Acts 13-14
 13 Acts 15-16
 14 Acts 17-18
 15 Acts 19-21

16 Acts 22-24
 17 Acts 25-26
 18 Acts 27-28
 19 Romans 1-4
 20 Romans 5-8
 21 Romans 9-11
 22 Romans 12-16
 23 1 Corinthians 1-4

24 1 Corinthians 5-8
 25 1 Corinthians 9-12
 26 1 Corinthians 13-16
 27 2 Corinthians 1-3
 28 2 Corinthians 4-6
 29 2 Corinthians 7-9
 30 2 Corinthians 10-13

Kingdomtide

Kingdomtide begins on the last Sunday in August and continues until the beginning of Advent. The emphasis includes evangelism, world missions, and the work for peace and justice in all relationships. During this period, special emphasis is placed on the Kingship of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The observance is wrapped up in the heightened awareness of one of the basic tenets of the Christian faith – the hope of the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven

Color: Green is symbolic of freshness of nature, hope, life and growth.

Name of God	Meaning	Application
JEHOVAH- JIREH	The Lord Will Provide	Just as God provided a ram as a substitute for Isaac, He provided His son Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice. God will meet all our needs.
JEHOVAH- MEKADDISHKEM	The Lord Who Sanctifies	God sets us apart as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, holy unto God, a people of His own. He cleanses our sin and helps us mature.
JEHOVAH-NISSI	The Lord is My Banner	God gives us victory against the flesh, the world and the devil. Our battles are His battles of light against darkness and good against evil.
JEHOVAH –RAPHA	The Lord Who Heals	God has provided the final cure for spiritual, physical, and emotional sickness in Jesus Christ. God can heal us.



Sunday School is a Family Affair

8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. We have classes for all ages – 3 to 103
New Members Class meets at the same time.
(For Transportation Needs Please call the Church 860-344-9527)

Come Grow with US!

God Answers Prayer (Heart's Desire)

Devotional Reading: Psalm 99

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:1-2:10

EXALT!

Invocation: Speak Lord so that we hear from heaven. Speak through Your word, our teacher, and to each of us. Center our thoughts on You. During this lesson and in the week to follow, let the Holy Ghost energize our spirits for your purpose. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Declaration: 1 Samuel 1:9-20

9 After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. 10 She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. 11 She made this vow: "O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

12 As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her month. 13 Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. 14 So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." 15 But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. 16 Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." 17 Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him." 18 And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance

was sad no longer.

19 They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. 20 In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord."

Affirmation: "My tears are prayers too. They travel to God when I cannot speak."

ENGAGE

"You can do more than pray, after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed." John Bunyan

"I fear John Knox's prayers more than an army of ten thousand men." Mary, Queen of Scotland

"God can [make] sense out of a confused prayer." Richard Sibbes

"The angel fetch Peter out of prison, but it was prayer that fetched the angel." Thomas Watson

Discuss these prayers quotes and its relevance to each class member's prayer experience.

EDUCATE

Childlessness was a circumstance that caused deep personal distress to women during biblical times, and Hannah is no exception. She is married to a well-to-do godly man named Elkanah, who is also married to a woman named Penninah. Unfortunately for Hannah, her barrenness is spotlighted and accentuated by Penninah's fertility. Each year, Elkanah takes his wives and children to Shiloh to worship and offer sacrifices at the tabernacle. Not only is Hannah childless during these pilgrimages, she is taunted by Penninah's irritating and intentionally hurtful comments. She embittered, depressed and cannot eat. She is unfulfilled because she is unable to have what she so desperately wants. Elkanah, sensing her

(Prayer on page 9)

Pray for all of our children, teens, young adults in this school years that God's hands will be upon them keeping them from all hurt, harm and danger. Also pray for all of our families, friends, and all of God's children.

(Prayer from page 8)

grave despair, lovingly and tenderly says, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?" (1 Samuel 1:8).

On one occasion in Shiloh, after the sacrificial meal, Hannah decides to take the issue of her infertility to God and departs to pray (v.9). As she enters the temple, she passes by Eli, the priest, who is seated at the doorway. Hannah, in a state of extreme misery and distress, tearfully pleads her case before the Lord (v 10). Her heart's desire is to be blessed to have a male child. She prays that God would be so gracious as to grant her request and she vows to consecrate the child wholly unto the Lord. "I will set him before you as a Nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head" (v. 11). In those days, a vow of this nature would have been carried out as long as it was not repudiated by her husband.³ (Verse 23 confirms Elkanah's full support of his wife's promise to the Lord.)

Unbeknownst to Hannah, Eli is watching as she prays. Even though her mouth is moving, he hears nothing. Completely misreading her piety, he openly chastises her for being drunk. "The suspicion of the aged priest seems to indicate that the vice of intemperance was neither uncommon nor confined to one sex in those times of disorder."⁴ On the other hand, perhaps Eli's erroneous accusation stems from his laxity as high priest and civil judge. His greed and the fact that his two sons, who are also priests, take advantage of the people and profane the sanctuary (see 1 Samuel 2:12-17) point to his diminishing competence as a godly leader. Regardless of the reason for his mistaken impression of Hannah, she sets the record straight. She tells him she is not a woman who disrespects the sacredness of God's temple. She has not even had a single drop of wine. Discouragement and disappointment have driven her to the altar, and she is pouring out her heart to God (1 Samuel 1:15-16). Realizing he is mistaken, Eli says to Hannah, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him" (v. 17). Hannah receives the words of the priest as prophetic and leaves the temple filled with joy and returned to her husband.

God answers Hannah's prayer. She conceives and bears a son, whom she names Samuel (Hebrews, God has heard). Hannah fulfills her promise that he will be raised as a lifelong Nazirite (v. 21-28). Samuel

eventfully becomes a godly prophet and the last judge of Israel.

ELEVATE

The Bible tells of several instances when God intervened in the lives of infertile women, blessing them to become the mothers of great heroes of the faith. Some of them include Sarah (Isaac), Manoah's wife (Samson), Rachel (Joseph), Elizabeth (John the Baptist), and in our lesson today, Hannah (Samuel). Some of these women were beyond childbearing years when God answered their prayers to conceive. Nevertheless, all of them felt blessed to bring a child into the world. There is one person, Michal, a daughter of King Saul, whose story of infertility is mentioned in the Bible, but does not include a miracle baby by divine intervention.

Sadly, infertility is still an issue to this day. Infertility can have a devastating impact on one's emotional well-being, causing feelings of anger, depression, social isolation and inadequacy. Modern medical interventions, such as in vitro fertilization, are extremely expensive and success is not guaranteed. The struggle of infertility too often results in weakening and irreparably damaging marriages.

If we know of persons in our church or class who are dealing with infertility challenges, we lift them in prayer as they deal with this challenge. We can also discuss ways that believers can be a loving, compassionate and empathetic presence to those who are having difficulty or are unable to conceive. Prayerfully, we can find ways to encourage those facing such issues so that they will not feel abandoned by God in this situation.

I THINK:

- Make a list of words that might be used to describe Hannah's emotions throughout the course of today's lesson.
- Listen to Garth Brooks' "Unanswered Prayers" and talk about a time when a "no" answer from God was in your best interest.

VERSE OF THE WEEK:

"Then Eli answered, 'Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him.'"
1 Samuel 1:17

From The Young People-Adult Quarterly
 (Ages 18 and up) International Sunday School Lessons
 for Christian Teaching

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(Sunday Sacred from page 1)

Do you know God? Do you know Him better than you did a year ago? If you're a believer in Christ, your answer should be yes. The way to know God better is through His Word. As you read and study the Bible with a desire to obey Him, you will grow.

If you don't know God, the first step is to establish a right relationship with Him. You do that by turning in faith to Jesus Christ as your Savior.

The facts are clear. All of us are sinners (Romans 3:23). Our sin keeps us from a right relationship with God, and we are powerless to do anything about it (Ephesians 2:8-9). Salvation is a gift that comes to us through Christ. He came to earth to die on the cross and pay the penalty for our sins. Now our responsibility is to trust in Him. *As many as received Him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name. —John 1:12*

Receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior today. If you do, you will have taken the first and most important step in knowing God.

God love you

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

All are Sinners

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

God's remedy for sin

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name. John 1:12

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scripture. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

All may be saved now

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:20

For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Romans 10:13

My decision to receive Christ as my Saviour: Confessing to God that I am a sinner, and believing that the Lord Jesus Christ died for my sins on the cross and was raised for my justification, I do now receive and confess Him as my personal Saviour.

Assurance as a believer

For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:9

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. John 5:24

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. 1 John 5:13

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. John 20:31

DISSATISFIED WITH YOUR WAY OF LIFE – SO FAR? THERE IS A BETTER WAY.

Things and people will disappoint you. Nothing in this world will really satisfy, that is because there is a void in your life that can only be filled by God, who created you.

How would you like to start all over again, with a clean slate, a clean conscience, without guilt or remorse? You **CAN** you know. God's word in the Bible tells us how...

Christ died for your sins, and all is forgiven. If you will recognize and believe that Jesus Christ the son of God, died in your place on the cross, and was resurrected the third day, and if you will completely trust him, he will change your life for the better, and give you that peace in your heart that you've been longing for.

You've tried everything else, now try doing things God's

way, thru faith in Jesus Christ. You won't be disappointed. If you are willing to take the first step, God will do the rest.

Come on, try Jesus, and see what happens! God's promise is your guarantee. "For whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). Here's how you do it ...Say this simple prayer, out loud, to yourself and to God.

"Lord Jesus, I believe you died on the cross for my sins, and rose again from the grave. Come into my heart, forgive my sins and save my soul. I receive you now Jesus, as my Savior and Lord of my life. Take over my life, and help me be the kind of person you want me to be. Thank you Jesus for saving my soul. Amen."

(Hope from page 1)

The Saving Element in Life

Romans 8:24. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

The Scriptures the Source of

Romans 15:4. For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Abides Forever

1 Corinthians 13:13. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. Colossians 1:23. If so be that ye continue in the faith, grounded and stedfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel which ye heard, which was preached in all creation under heaven; whereof I Paul was made a minister.

2 Thessalonians 2:16. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace.

Believers Called to Testify concerning

1 Peter 3:15. But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.

Inspires to clean Living

1 John 3:3. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure

Eternal Hope

Cheers the Dying Hour of the Saints

Proverbs 14:32. The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.

Assures of Immortality

Acts 24:15. And have hope toward God which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

A Heavenly Treasure

Colossians 1:5. For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel.

Anticipates Christ's Coming

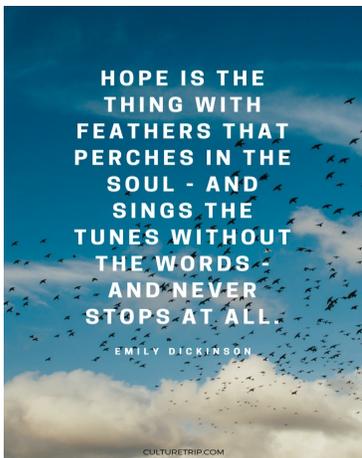
Titus 2:13. Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Soul's Sure Anchor

Hebrews 6:18-19. That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil.

Grounded in the Resurrection of Christ

1 Peter 1:3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.



When you Need Hope

Key Scripture: “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God” (Psalm 42:11).

Key Thought: Which we have as an anchor of your soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and entering into that which is within the veil; (Hebrews 6:19.)

Prayer: Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon me as I endeavor to experience the hope you promise to me. ¹ You are my hiding place and my shield, and I find hope in your Word. ²

Let my life be filled with your hope, joy, peace, and faith so that I will always continue to abound in hope through the power of your Holy Spirit. ³

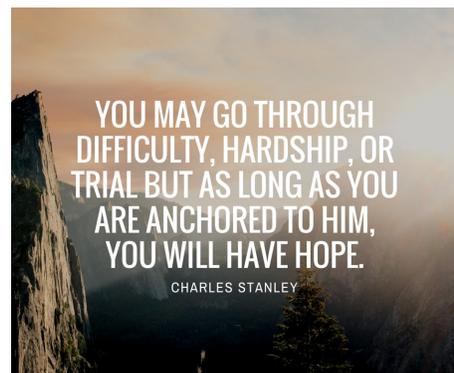
Thank you for equipping me with your protective armor, Father. ⁴ I put on the hope of salvation as my helmet. ⁵ thank you for giving

me everlasting consolation and good hope through your grace. ⁶

Even now, as I pray, I experience your hope as being the sure and steadfast anchor of my soul? ⁷ From now on, I will hope continually, and I will praise you more and more. ⁸ Christ in me is the hope of glory. ⁹

Father, thank you for exchanging my sense of hopelessness with your abiding hope.

References: Psalms 33:22; (2) Psalms 119:114; (3) Romans 15:13; (4) Ephesians 6:11; (5) Ephesians 6:17; (6) 2 Thessalonians 2:16; (5) (7) Hebrews 6:19; (8) Psalms 71:14; (9) Colossians 1:27.



(Food from page 1)

IT DEPENDS ON WHOS HANDS IT'S IN!

A basketball in my hands is worth about \$19.

A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth about \$33 million. It depends on whose hands it's in.

A baseball in my hands is worth about \$6.

A baseball in Mark McGwire's hands is worth \$19 million. It depends on whose hands it's in.

A tennis racket is useless in my hands.

A tennis racket in Pete Sampras' hands is a Wimbledon Championship. It depends on whose hands it's in.

A rod in my hands will keep away a wild animal.

A rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty sea. It depends on whose hands it's in.

A sling shot in my hands is a kid's toy.

A sling shot in David's hand is a mighty weapon. It depends on whose hands it's in.

Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches. Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in God's hands will feed thousands.

It depends on whose hands it's in.

Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse.

Nails in Jesus Christ's hands will produce salvation for the entire world. It depends on whose hands it's in.

As you see now it depends on whose hands it's in.

So put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your dreams, your families and your relationships in God's hands because – It depends on whose hands it's in.

REALIZE THE POWER WITHIN YOU

Realize the power that is within you, and you will no longer be the

victim of a depressed spirit. And what is this inner power? Simply the God-given ability to believe. To the extent to which you develop this faculty, you will master the defeats in your life. The great issue is to learn to believe.

This is stated in one of the most important of all Scripture passages:

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Mark 9:23

Learn to believe. Learn to cast out doubt. This is done by the practice of affirmation. Affirm faith, think positively, visualize achievement. Never think doubt. Always think faith.

This text affirms that when you learn to believe, the area of the impossible is vastly reduced and the area of the possible is greatly increased.

If you set this text firmly at the center of your thought patterns, you will never again be a victim of low spirits.

SALT OF THE EARTH

Read: Matthew 5:13-16
You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, ...it is then good for nothing. Matthew 5:13

What did Jesus mean when He told His followers that they were "the salt of the earth"? (Mt. 5:13). In the ancient world, salt had many uses. For one, it preserved food. Without salts, meat and fish would quickly spoil. In a similar way, Christians who uphold God's moral standards can slow the decay of society.

Salt was also used as fertilizer. Until the mid 1900's, English farmers added salt to their fields to increase the yield. Salt helped crops to grow. Christians too can encourage the growth of what is good wherever they live.

Salt also brings out the flavor of food. By their witness, salty believers help

the people around them to taste life fully as God intended.

SUSTAINED AND LED BY THE SPIRIT

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. Roman 8:26-30

May flowers always line your path and sunshine light your day.

May songbirds serenade you every step along the way.

May a rainbow run beside you in a sky that's always blue.

And may happiness fill your heart each day your whole life through.
Irish Blessing

A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.
William Arthur Wand

Friendship isn't a big thing
It's a million little things.
Author Unknown

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.
His love endures forever.
Psalm 136:1

(Thanksgiving from page 1)

somewhere that you are not aware of. Not so. The entire community gets set to attend various churches all over the country. In the villages, where the mode of transportation to the churches is mainly by foot, you still get the same weird feeling. Lines and lines of beautifully dressed families could be headed in all directions all going to some church for Sunday service.

This goes on every Sunday, rain or shine. It has been this way, back in my days and obviously, even before my days. The only difference now is that the population has doubled, the churches have multiplied and the outfits have become more elaborate, better designed, better embroidered and fancier. The women with their handbags and the men holding on to their bibles.

The question I always asked myself was - why so much effort? The answer will and may be illusive to the uninitiated - that is, if you were not familiar with the African culture. Each and every Sunday is dedicated to thanksgiving for the blessings of the past week and for the hope and prospects of the coming week. How else could Africans survive the unspeakable, unimaginable, harsh, abrasive every day life they have to go through?

Within the walls of the church, don't expect solemn, meditative, and pensive or in any way calm assembly of folks waiting for the 'word'. Far from it. They say: 'God forbid'. The drums take over. The guitars, the keyboards, the cymbals, the horns. If it was prescribed in Psalm 150 it is present in some African church. Plus more. The dance is not bashful, gentle swaying of the shoulders, nor is it just comfortable hand applause and clapping to the beat of the music. Just consider this. Each church has provision for space in the front of the pulpit for full-scale mass dancing and praising. Africans "Let every thing that hath breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.' They do!

Praise the Lord they do, and then some. They come on Sundays to express their profound gratitude and thanks for yet another week. Somewhere in the order of service, you will find a line of the congregation as they get ready to testify in their testimonies of thanksgiving for what the Lord had done and hopefully will continue to do for them.

Each testimonial is for 'thanksgiving'. For example, "... the past week, I made a pact with Jesus (pronounced Yesu). I asked Him to help me conquer the devil at my work. By this past Wednesday, the person who had been my major competition in the market moved out of town. For being there when I needed Him I come with this gift for the Lord. Now, if Yesu continues to bless me, the way He has always been, I also promise that I will continue to serve and to bring Him gifts from my heart as He blesses me. Amen...."

The next and the next and the next. Each person gives thanks and makes good on the 'pact', which he or she might have made with the Lord.

The rationale is in the sustained hope and dependence on the miracles that only the Lord can promise. Africa has the best of everything. It has the richest natural and human resources that human beings can ask for. Yet, over the centuries the wealth of the continent has been utilized mainly to the benefit of foreign interests at the expense of the native Africans. In addition, the singular success of alien, colonial and foreign redefinition of ethnic boundaries and settlements have sown seeds of tension, malcontent and hatred causing Africans to spend valuable time and resources fighting each other for positioning and territory instead of progress and advancement. The results have been a life of perennial harsh conditions and endemic, persistent struggle for mere survival.

After church service, that can stretch into the late afternoons, the families, rejuvenated to face the coming week, return home for the best meal of the week. No turkeys, no fillings, but the best they can afford for the week. Next Sunday will be another day for Thanksgiving and testimony.

The presence of the Lord and the promises of hope and salvation that come only from knowing Him have been the source of the weekly thanksgiving that take place in Africa every Sunday. Kwame Ocansey

(This article was first published November 2000)



Words To Live By

The Power of Encouragement Peter Chin

The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done. Acts 15:12

Read: Acts 15:12–21 (NIV)

Insight

A little detail mentioned in Acts 15:12—“the whole assembly became silent”—is significant. A “sharp dispute and debate” had arisen (v. 2), with Paul and Barnabas on one side and certain believers on the other. These believers insisted that non-Jewish Christians had to adhere to Jewish law and be circumcised. The text tells us, “After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them” (v. 7). We can imagine how heated that discussion must have been, but Peter outlined a rational defense of the gentiles’ faith (v. 7). He noted how they too had the Holy Spirit, just as the Jewish believers did (v. 8). Peter added, “We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we [Jewish believers] are saved, just as they [gentile believers] are” (v. 11). Peter’s calm response to the dispute, along with the testimony of Paul and Barnabas, preserved and enhanced unity in the church.

When he was a young boy, Benjamin West attempted to draw a picture of his sister, but he succeeded only in making a mess. His mother saw his creation, kissed him on the head, and remarked, “Why, it’s Sally!” He would later say that it was that kiss that made him an artist—and the great American painter he would become. Encouragement is a powerful thing!

Like a child learning to paint, Paul didn’t have much credibility early on in his ministry, but Barnabas affirmed his calling. It was through Barnabas’s encouragement that the church accepted Saul as a fellow believer (Acts 9:27). Barnabas would also encourage the fledgling church of Antioch, helping it to become one of the most influential in the book of Acts (11:22–23). And it was through Barnabas’s encouragement, as well as Paul’s, that the Jerusalem church embraced the gentile believers as Christians (15:19). So, in many ways, the story of the early church is really a story of encouragement.

The same should apply to our own lives. We might think encouragement is merely saying something nice to someone. But if we think that way, we fail to recognize the lasting power it possesses. It’s one of the means by which God shapes our individual lives as well as the life of the church.

Let’s thank God for the moments we receive encouragement and strive to pass it along to others.

Reflect & Pray

How has encouragement shaped your life story in some way? Who encouraged you, and how did they do it? How will you encourage someone in your life this week?

“Daily Confession of Faith”

In Christ I am anointed and a powerful person of God.

I am a joint-heir with Jesus and more than a conqueror.

I am a doer of the Word of God and a channel for His blessings.

If God be for me, who can be against me?

I am blessed coming in and I am blessed going out.

My enemies are fleeing before me.

God has commanded His blessing on my storehouses.

He has opened His Good treasures and I shall lend and not borrow.

I am the head and not the tail.

He has given me power to make wealth.

I dwell in the secret place.

I have His protection and provision.

God is my refuge, my fortress.

I am not afraid of the snare of the fowler.

No Evil shall befall me and no plague shall come nigh my dwelling.

God has given his angels charge over me and they are bearing me up in their hands

lest I dash my foot against a stone, as declared in Psalm 91.

1 Peter 2:9 establishes I am a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

I am a peculiar person called out of darkness into His marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:24 states, I have been healed by the stripes of Jesus.

***Cancer, sugar diabetes, heart disease, sickness, afflictions, infections,
or any other disease cannot enter my body.***

I am without spot or blemish, an intercessor,

the righteousness of God, saved, and washed in the Blood of Jesus.

“No weapon formed against me shall prosper, and every tongue which rise against me in judgement You shall condemn.

This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD,

and their righteousness is from Me,” Says the LORD.

I am saved from wrath by Him and justified by the blood of the Lamb.

***Lord I pray that those may prosper that love Jerusalem and that peace will be within them
and prosperity in their houses according to Psalms 122:6-9.***

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Spirit Lifters

Realize the Power Within You

Realize the power that is within you, and you will no longer be the victim of a depressed spirit. And what is this inner power? Simply the God-given ability to believe. To the extent to which you develop this faculty, you will master the defeats in your life. The great issue is to learn to believe. This is stated in one of the most important of all Scripture passages:

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Mark 9:23

Learn to believe. Learn to cast out doubt. This is done by the practice of affirmation. Affirm faith, think positively, visualize achievement. Never think doubt. Always think faith.

This text affirms that when you learn to believe, the area of the impossible is vastly reduced and the area of the possible is greatly increased.

If you set this text firmly at the center of your thought patterns, you will never again be a victim of low spirits.

Faith, Hope and Love

The best three-point formula for living is in this immortal statement:

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

Here are three powerful Spirit Lifters: Faith, the greatest power in the world; Hope, the attitude of expectancy-the best is yet to be; and Love, one of the greatest qualities of all-a heart full of compassion and understanding. Christian love gives deep joy. Let these three shine like stars in your life, and your spirit will be uplifted always.

What Christ Can Do for You

We read in the Bible of the marvelous things Jesus did for people---and wish that the same experience might be ours. Through faith in Jesus Christ, they were able to accomplish the most astonishing achievements, or were rescued from sad plights or gained tremendous new power over difficulties.

Rather sadly we ask, "Why can't that happen to me?"

It can, and as proof I urge you to meditate upon this tremendous Spirit Lifter:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8

The simple truth stated here is that Jesus Christ never changes. He is an invariable factor in a variable world. He is just the same now as when He walked the shores of Galilee. He has the same kindness, the same power to heal and change men's lives. He is the same restorer of courage, the same transformer of people's souls.

Any things that He ever did for anyone throughout all history, He can do for you. It all depends upon how completely you surrender yourself Him---and how sincerely you believe.

Healing of Sorrow

Sorrow over the death of a loved one is a heavy weight upon the spirit. It often causes the one who mourns to feel that life will never again be filled with high and joyful attitudes.

But life goes on---and one must live it. The passage the follows has probably brought more healing to the human soul and given more lift to the spirit in sorrow than any other passage in all the literature of the world.

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. John 11:25

What a glorious message! Jesus Christ is alive, and those who believes in Him live, also. So our loved one whom we thought dead isn't dead at all, but lives and shall forever touch our lives with the same love and tenderness.

This gives a lift to the spirit that one wants to shout from the housetops the glorious fact that through faith in Jesus Christ, we live. So when sorrow comes, repeat over and over this wonderful passage. And presently the shadows will flee away, and the light of a new day will dawn for you.

Barbara Perry Speaks

"Finding Rest in a Restless World"

"Come unto Me , all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28 NKJV.

Let us pray, "Father, we humbly come to You, seeking rest for our heart and mind. We choose to be still before You. We choose to cast our cares on You. So speak to our heart so we can know You more. Fill us with Your peace as we put our trust in You in Jesus' name. Amen."

In this day and age, our life has become so accustomed to having constant activity going on—computers, cell phones, television, email, video games. There's nothing wrong with being entertained, but sometimes we have to stop and be still so we can focus on knowing God, especially during the difficult times in our life.

See when we are facing a challenge, it's easy to want to run to a friend or talk about it with a neighbor. But at some

point, we have to stop and say, "God, I rest in You. I know You have me in the palms of Your hands." And because God has us, we must remember, our battles are spiritual battles. The people in your life aren't your enemy, the forces of darkness are. But when we choose to be still and know that the Greater One lives on the inside of us, we are saying to the whole world, "I trust God. He is my Defender." So when we choose to believe in Him, we will enter into His rest, Amen!

"Plan for a Comeback"

Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place 2 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV.

Let us pray, "Heavenly Father, I give You thanks and praise today for the promise of victory. Give us Your vision for the future so that we can move confidently into the abundant life You

have for us. In Jesus' Name. Amen."

God promises to always lead us into victory! That means no matter what we are facing, no matter what's going on in the world around us, no matter what anybody says, we should always be planning for a comeback!

See In the middle of that adversity or tough time, start making your list of who you're going to invite to your victory celebration. You don't have to wait for

everything to be perfect before you decide to celebrate what God is going to do in your life. Just put some action behind your faith. That mean, If things don't look good in the natural, remember, we serve a supernatural God. He will lead us into victory, and we can always plan for increase. We can plan for restoration. We can plan for a comeback that will make us stronger and better than we ever were before, Amen!

"The Next Chapter"

Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them. Psalms 139:16 NKJV.

Let us pray, "Heavenly Father, thank You for the good plan You have for us. Today, we lay aside the disappointments of the past knowing that You have blessing in store for our future, In Jesus' Name, Amen"

Did you know that God has already

planned out every part of your life from the beginning to the end? He knows every disappointment, every loss, every challenge; and the good news is, your story ends in victory! We sometime get so focused on what didn't work out that we stay stuck, reliving the disappointment. If that's you, recognize that you've been on that page long enough. It's time to let it go and turn the page to the new chapter God has in store. You may not understand, it may not have been fair, but remember, the next chapter is full of blessing, full of favor, and full of victory!

The key is: when we go through a disappointment, when we go through a loss, don't stop on that page in our life. We have to decide to keep moving forward because there's another chapter in front of us, but we have to be willing to take the next step.

Remember: Make the decision to let go of the old so you can move forward into the abundant life God has in store for you. God has written out a plan to bless and prosper you. Our final chapter concludes with we fulfilling our God-given destiny, Amen

"Learning to Soar"

Daniel 2:21 says, **"He changes times and seasons..."Amen.**

Let us pray, "Dear God, today we open our heart and mind to You and receive all that You have for us. Today and everyday we want to trust that You are with us, directing our every step. We embrace Your seasons of change and thank You for helping us grow and increase in every area of our life, In Jesus' name, Amen, Amen, and Amen."

God is always looking to take us to higher levels and He wants us to grow

and increase in every area of life. But the change is often a catalyst for growth in our lives. It keeps us from getting stuck in a rut.

See God will supernaturally open and close doors to keep us on the path toward our destiny. He will "stir us" out of comfortable situations and stretch us because He loves us too much to allow us to live in mediocrity.

You may be in a perfectly fine situation for years and then He all of a sudden He closes it. Nothing happens by accident. God is directing our steps. That mean no matter who wrong you, or

you go through a setback, you lose someone, or if your workplace changes, you can either embrace that change and let God will use to take you higher, or you can resist it and end up becoming stagnant and settling for mediocrity, Amen. So I encourage you to stay open for change. It may be negative on the surface, but remember that God would not allow it if He didn't have a purpose for it. Just embrace the change, the winds that you thought would defeat you will actually push you to your divine destiny, Amen.

THE BEAUTY OF HOLLAND

I AM OFTEN ASKED TO DESCRIBE THE EXPERIENCE OF RASING A CHILD WITH DISABILITY - TO TRY TO HELP PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT SHARED THAT UNIQUE EXPERIENCE TO UNDERSTAND IT, TO IMAGINE HOW IT WOULD FEEL. IT'S LIKE THIS...

WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO HSEVE A BABY, IT'S LIKE PLANNING A FABULOUS TRIP TO ITALY. YOU BUY A BUNCH OF GUIDEBOOKS AND MAKE YOUR WONDERFUL PLANS. THE COLISEMUM, THE MICHELANGELO DAVID. THE GONDOLAS IN VENICE. YOU LEARN SOME HANDY PHRASES IN ITALLAN. IT'S ALL VERY, VERY EXCITING!

AFTER MONTHS OF EAGER ANTICIPATION, THE DAY FINALLY ARRIVES. YOU PACK YOUR BAGS AND OFF YOU GO. SERVAL HOURS LATER THE PLANE LANDS. THE FLIGHT ATTENDANT COMES IN AND SAYS, "WELCOME TO HOLLAND.

"HOLLAND!!!" YOU SAY, "WHAT DO YOU MEAN HOLLAND! I SIGNED UP FOR ITALY. I'M SUPPORT TO BE IN ITALY! ALL MY LIFE I'VE DREAMED OF GOING TO ITALY."

BUT THERE'S A CHANCE IN THE FLIGHT PLAN. THEY LANDED IN HOLLAND AND YOU MUST STAY. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THEY HAVEN'T TAKEN YOU TO A HORRIBLE, DISGUSTING, FILTHY PLACE, FULL OF PESTILENCE, FAMINE AND DISEASE. IT'S JUST A DIFFERENT PLANE.

SO YOU MUST GO OUT AND BUY NEW GUIDEBOOKS. AND YOU MUST LEARN A WHOLE NEW LANGUAGE. AND YOU WILL MEET A WHOLE NEW GROUP OF PEOPLE YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE MET.

IT'S JUST A DIFFERENT PLACE. IT'S SLOWER-PACED THAN ILALY, LESS FLASHY THAN ITALY. BUT AFTER YOU'RE BEEN THERE AWHILE AND CATCH YOUR BREATH, YOU BEGIN TO LOOK AROUND, AND YOU BEGIN TO NOTICE THAT HOLLAND HAS WINDMILLS, HOLLAND HAS TULIPS. HOLLAND EVEN HAS REM-BRANDTS.

BUT EVERYONE YOU KNOW IS BUSY COMING AND GOING FROM ILTALY, AND THEY'RE BRAGGING ABOUT WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME THEY HAD THERE. AND FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE YOU WILL SAY, "YES, THAT'S WHERE I WAS SUPPOSED TO GO. THAT'S WHAT I HAD PLANNED."

AND THE PAIN WILL NEVER, EVER GO AWAY, BECAUSE THE LOSS OF THAT DREAM IS A VERY SIGNIFI-CANT LOSS.

BUT IF YOU SPEND YOUR LIFE MOURING THE FACT YOU DIDN'T GO TO ITALY, YOU MAY NEVER BE FREE TO ENJOY THE VERY SPECIAL, THE VERY LOVELY THINGS ABOUT HOLLAND.

SOURCE UNKNOWN

Joyce Meyer: Promises for your Everyday Life - a Daily Devotional

The Lifter of Our Heads

“But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head.” Psalms 3:3 NKJV

God has good plans for you and He wants you to enjoy your life. He doesn't want you to live with a spirit of heaviness, despair, depression or discouragement. The good news is, your attitude and outlook can change when you look to God and let Him lift you up.

The psalmist said that God “is a shield for me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.” think about that phrase the ‘the lifter of my head.’ when someone walks around with their hand hanging down, we assume that they're sad or depressed. If that's the way you feel, know today that God can lift your head and your spirits.

Remember, God has a good plan with a future and a hope for each of us. Because He is with us, we can think and

speak in agreement with His will. We can practice being positive in every situation that arises. And when our circumstances are challenging and difficult, we can expect God to bring good out of them as He has promised in His Word.

Prayer Starter: God, You are my glory and the lifter of my head. I choose to look to You. Help me to keep my focus on You and trust You to bring Your good plans to pass in my life today.

The Holy Spirit Is Our Drill Instructor

“knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.” James 1:3 NKJV

Mature faith doesn't happen overnight. If we want to have a deep, healthy, solid faith in God, we must exercise our faith to make it stronger.

Think of soldiers in the military. They're not ready for the most intense battles right away when they enlist in a branch of the service. They have to go through basic training. They are drilled

and exercised and trained relentlessly. Drill instructors are assigned to do this ‘equipping’ because soldiers need to possess strength, stamina, resilience and endurance.

Let's think about this in terms of our faith, we enlist, or give our lives to Christ. Then we begin a regimen of basic training, or faith building. The Holy Spirit acts as our Drill Instructor in this case.

The Holy Spirit knows exactly what we each need as a faith-building requirement so we can be prepared in

season and out of season. We just need to obey Him, even when it's challenging, trusting that He knows how to build our faith.

When you let the Holy Spirit train you. The results - a strong faith in God - are well worth the time and effort.

Prayer Starter: Holy Spirit, I submit myself to Your instruction. I want to have a mature, solid faith in You. Train me so I can walk by faith, not sight, trusting God in every situation and for every provision I need.

“Put on the New Nature”

“and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” Ephesians 4:24 NKJV

After all the painful things that have happened in your past have come and gone, God still wants you to enjoy single day of your life. This won't happen, however, until you make up your mind to take hold of the abundant life that Jesus's death and resurrection

purchased for you. Until then, the devil will always try to take it away.

Jesus said, “The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)” (John 10:10 AMP). Jesus came to this earth and died for us to have abundant life!

With the life He gives, you are a new creation. You don't have to allow the old things that happened to you to continue

to effect your new life in Christ. As a new creature in Christ Jesus, you can have your mind renewed according to the Word of God. Things will change for the better when you live in the new nature that Jesus purchased for you.

Prayer Starter: God, I choose to daily, actively put on the new nature that Jesus purchased for me. I am regenerated in Christ - a new, happy and whole creation in You!

“The Way to See Your God-given Dreams Come True”

“Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest.” Proverbs 6:6-8

God gives His children big dreams to pursue in life. In order for those dreams to be fulfilled, we must spend time in training, cooperating with God in a proceed of personal development. This process includes time, determination and hard work.

These days, we're so used to convenience. We use automatic dishwashers to clean our dishes and laundry machines to dry and press our clothes. We just press a button and a machine goes to work. But nothing is automatic in God's kingdom. You can't fulfill His plans and purposes without developing the necessary skills.

In Proverbs, we read about the ant. Ants more than make up for their small size with simple determination, and we can learn a giant-size lesson from them. We must be just as self-motivated and self-disciplined.

As you develop that kind of self-motivation and discipline to live for Christ, you will become all God created you to be and also lead other to Him in the process. So keep pressing on, growing in determination, and watch your dreams come true!

Prayer Starter: Lord, I want to be all You created me to be and fulfill the dreams You've put in my heart. Help me to stay focused on You and put in the time, determination and hard work necessary to grow in Christ and live out the plans You have for me.

A Bird's Eye View Of The Bible

Old Testament

There are 39 books in the Old Testament library.
There are four types of writing in the Old Testament:
Law, History, Poetry, Prophecy.

It is helpful to know which kind of literature you are reading before you start: is it poetry, or is it history?

LAW

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

The first five books of the Bible are sometimes called the Law of Moses. They give many of God's laws about how to live.

HISTORY

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.

These 12 historical books cover the occupation of the Promised Land, the time of the Judges, Israel's kings, the fall of the two kingdoms and a return to Jerusalem.

POETRY

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs.

Nearly one third of the Old Testament is written in poetry. These five poetical books ask profound questions about evil, pain, love, wisdom and God.

PROPHECY

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

The 17 prophetic books account for almost a quarter of the Bible. They are divided into "Major Prophets" (the first five books) and, "Minor Prophets" (the last 12). The "Minor" ones are shorter, not less important.

New Testament

There are 27 books in the New Testament library.
There are three types of writing in the New Testament:
History, Letters, Prophecy.

Before you study a New Testament book it helps to consider what kind of literature you are reading: is it a letter or is it history?

HISTORY

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts

The first four books, called gospels, are not like our modern biographies. But they do give four portraits of Jesus. Acts is part two of Luke, about the early church.

LETTERS

PAUL'S LETTERS

Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon.

We have 13 of Paul's letters. Except for one personal one, Philemon, they were all written to groups of Christians.

OTHER LETTERS

Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude.

We don't know who wrote Hebrews. Tradition states that all the writers of the New Testament, except for John, were martyred.

PROPHECY

Revelation

Written by the apostle John, this book has seven letters to churches and numerous visions about God.



YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED AT THE

Tom Thumb Wedding

SEPTEMBER 7th, 2019
4:00PM

Cross St AME Zion Church
440 West St. Middletown, CT 06457

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
860-344-9527

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NATIONAL
**BACK TO
CHURCH**
SUNDAY

September 15,
2019

LET'S DO THIS
TOGETHER

*Private
Hat Sale*

SEPT.15 • AFTER SERVICE
Location: Cross Street AME Zion Church's Narthex

RSVP to Sylvia Pina by calling 860.301.1369.
We look forward to seeing you there!
Thank you in advance.

These hats are one of a kind! Please note, there are no early bird specials.

WOMEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER, 21ST 2019

FOR MORE INFORMATION
whcatthecross@gmail.com

WOMEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE

UNCHANGING

READ: Psalms 103:13-22

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8

My wife, Cari, and I recently traveled to Santa Barbara, California - the city where we met and fell in love thirty-five years ago - to attend our college reunion. We planned to visit several places where we had spent some of the best hours of our youth together. But when we arrived at the location of our favorite Mexican restaurant, we found a building supply store there. A wrought iron plaque hung on the wall commemorating the restaurant and its four decades of service to the community.

I gazed on the barren but still familiar sidewalk, once dotted cheerfully with colorful tables and bright umbrella. So much had changed around us! Yet in the midst of change, God's faithfulness never changes. David observed poignantly: "The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children" (Psalms 103:15-17). David

concludes the psalm with these words: "Praise the Lord, my soul" (v.22).

The ancient philosopher Heraclitus said, "You can never step in the same river twice." life is always changing around us, but God remains the same and can always be trusted to keep His promises! His faithfulness and love can be counted on from generation to generation.

**How is it comforting to know that God never changes?
When have you needed that assurance?**

Almighty and eternal God, thank You that You never change and can always be trusted.

Help me to rely on Your love and faithfulness today.

Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan,
Reprinted by Permission



Crises/Emergency: Cell phone 860-754-4606

Cross Street Recovery Ministry the "Hope Line" is in operation 24 hours per day. Please call 860-754-4606 if you, a friend and/or a family member are in need of counseling and/or are in crisis, **PLEASE** dial the "Hope Line". All information will be confidential.

CROSS STREET MINISTRY OF RECOVERY

We can't but through God, all things are possible. How might we pull on God's strength to help each other recover?

Let the spirit of God work for you in a Mighty, Mighty Way

For more information contact:
Church office 860-344-9527.or
Rev. Gregory B. Winborne: Days: 860-616-3834

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

<p>Sunday 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 2nd Sunday Senior Usher Board Meeting (following service) Youth Meeting 1st & 4th Sunday's (following service)</p> <p>Monday 6:00 p.m. Zumba 7:00-9:00 p.m. Bible Study, Eddy Shelter 7:00 Media Ministry (1st and 3rd of month)</p> <p>Tuesday Special Prayer for Pastor Harvill 6:00—7:00 p.m. Prayer meeting and</p>	<p>bible study.</p> <p>Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Zumba 6:00 p.m. Ministerial Staff (1st of month)</p> <p>Thursday 6:00 p.m. Steward Board 7:00 p.m. Trustee Board (2nd of month)</p> <p>Friday Day of Fasting 6:00 p.m. Vision Choir (3rd & 4th of month) 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Cross Street Recovery Ministry (room 2)</p>	<p>Saturday 10:00 a.m. Pastors Aide (2nd) 11:00 a.m. Security Ministry Meeting (2nd Saturday of month) 12:00 noon Missionaries (2nd Saturday of month)</p> <p>Choir Rehearsals Men - 7 p.m. Monday Women - Tuesday & Friday before 5th Sunday Children - 7 p.m. Friday before 1st Sunday Unity - 7 p.m. Thursday Praise & Worship Choir 7:00 pm Wednesday</p>
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MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 3, @ 6:00 p.m.
The Call to Financial Freedom Bible Study
 Members encouraged to invite someone to attend with you.

CHILDCARE WILL BE PROVIDED in CLASSROOM 3
 A snack will be served!

Wednesday, September 4, @ 7:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting
 At the church in the sanctuary and on the Prayer Line. Prayer Line number: (605) 313-4819 Code: 861471

Thursday, September 5, @ 6:00 p.m.
Women's Bible Study Resumes
 COME & BE BLESSED!

Saturday, September, 7
Tom Thumb Wedding
 Tickets:
 Adults: \$10.00 ·Children (4-10): \$5.00
 Children 3 & under are Free

Saturday, September 14
First Lady Eledia Harvill's Birthday

@9:00 am
 Men's Ministry
Breakfast Meeting

Sunday, September 15
 You Belong Here at The Cross
National Back to Church Sunday
 All Choirs will be singing!

Saturday, September 21
9th Annual Women's Health Conference
 Stay tuned for more information

Sunday, September 22
Missionary Sunday
 Please wear your white
 More information to follow

Saturday, September 28, @ 9:30 a.m.
1st Checkup Meeting
 Hosted by: Columbus Avenue AME Zion Church 600 Columbus Avenue, Boston, MA 02118

Sunday, October 13, @ 4:00 p.m.
 Presiding Elder's
40th Anniversary in the Ministry
 @ Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church
 2051 Main Street, Hartford, CT

Thursday - Saturday, October 24-26,
 Northeastern Episcopal District
2019 Restoration Summit
 @ Stamford Marriot Hotel & Spa
 243 Tresser Blvd
 Stamford, CT 06901
 See Pastor or Church office for more information!

Thursday, October 31
TRUNK-OR-TREAT
 Stay tune for more information

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 12,
Taste of Cross Street
 More information to follow

Doxology

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.
Jude 24-25



2020 VISON

The Year of Expected “Miracles”

CROSS STREET A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Organized in 1823

440 West Street P.O. Box 223
Middletown, CT 06457

Phone: 860-344-9527 Fax: 860-344-1740

crossstreetchurch@snet.net
www.crossstreetamezion.org

Sunday School — 8:45 a.m.
Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Moses L. Harvill, M. Div.,
Pastor

Email: mharvill@snet.net

The Rev. Dr. Terry L. Jones
Presiding Elder

Mrs. D. Diane Proctor
Missionary Supervisor

The Right Reverend Dennis Proctor
Presiding Prelate

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Robyn Anderson-Turner
Rev. William D. Wilson
Rev. Ella Frances Perry
Rev. Karen Nesmith
Rev. James Battle
Rev. Myrtle Turner
Rev. Gregory Winborne
Rev. Joyce Johnson
Rev. Earlene Grants
Sister Felicia Freeman



“I am a Christian”

By Maya Angelou

When I say ... “I am a Christian”
I’m not shouting “I’m clean livin’.”
I’m whispering “I was lost,
Now I’m found and forgiven.”

When I say ... “I am a Christian”
I don’t speak of this with pride.
I’m confessing that I stumble
And need Christ to be my guide.

When I say ... “I am a Christian”
I’m not trying to be strong.
I’m professing that I’m weak
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say ... “I am a Christian”
I’m not bragging of success.
I’m admitting I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say ... “I am a Christian”
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His name.

When I say ... “I am a Christian”
I’m not holier than thou.
I’m just a simple sinner
Who received God’s good grace,
somehow!

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread. And forgive us our debts, as we
forgive our debtors. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.



Then the Lord answered me and said:
Write the vision and make it plain on
tablets, that he may run who reads it.
Habakkuk 2:2

The Jabez Prayer

And Jabez called on the God of Israel
saying, “**Oh, that You would bless
me indeed, and enlarge my territory,
that Your hand would keep me from
evil, that I may nor cause pain!**” So
God granted him what he requested.
1 Chronicles 4:10 (NKJV)

“God’s Word

*For the word of God is quick, and power-
ful, and sharper than any two-edged
sword, piercing even to the dividing
asunder of soul and spirit, and of the
joints and marrow, and is a discerner of
the thoughts and intents of the heart”
Hebrews 4:12*

Prayer: Forever, O Lord, your Word is
settled in heaven. I bless you because
you have given me rest according to all
that you have promised to me. Not one
word of all your good promises has ever
failed. In light of this truth, I will walk in
your Word at all times.

I love your Word, Father, it is a lamp
unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
All of your words are pure, O God, and
you are a shield to me. Lord God, your

way is perfect, and your Word is tried.
You are a shield and a mighty buckler to
me as I trust in you.
With your Word you made the heavens,
O Lord. all of your promises are yes in
Christ, unto your glory, O God. You
have spoken through your Word since
ancient times, in order to give light to
those who sit in darkness, and you guide
my feet in the way of peace.
Your Word is quick, alive, and powerful,
and sharper than any two-edged sword.
It pierces even to the dividing asunder of
my soul and spirit, and of my joints and
marrow, and is a discerner of the
thoughts and intents of my heart.
Father, I am thankful for your Word, and
I will endeavor to walk in the light of your
Word all the days of my life.

If you were to die today, do you know where you will spend eternity ???

The Cross Street Journal is published Bi-monthly. If you have an article or information for current and future publications the deadline for this information is the Monday after the 2nd Sunday of each Month. **You may submit your information in the following ways:** place the information on a CD (Window format) and leave it in the Cross Street office with Verna Boyce Or, E-mail Ken Simmons (Ken46@snet.net), or give it to him **Praise God!!!**