



# The Cross

Cross Street A.M.E Zion Church



"A Church Where Everybody is Somebody and Christ is Lord of ALL"

July / August 2018

Volume 22, Issue 04

**WHEN YOU CAN'T FORGIVE SOMEONE, PRAY FOR THEM. IT MAY OR MAY NOT CHANGE THEM BUT IT WILL ALWAYS CHANGE YOU.**



## Bible Verses About Forgiveness

Forgiveness is a huge subject and certainly one in which the Bible is not silent. In the Bible we can read about our amazing and loving Heavenly Father who forgives us of all trespasses. God calls sinners to seek Him and promises them forgiveness. It is because of His great mercy and grace that God rescues

the believer from the dominion of darkness that began way back in the Garden. Jesus extends a loving invitation for forgiveness of sins which is only possible through His shed blood. He gave His life so that we may live. We are forgiven because He was forsaken –

*(Forgiveness on page 14)*

Tuesday, July 24 - Friday, July 27  
**Vacation Bible School**

Saturday July 28  
**Cross Street Church Cook-out**

Saturday, August 4  
**Fill-the-Bus**

### What Happens When I Tithe?

Many positive experiences and good feelings come from tithing. Many Christians regularly give a tithe or more through their church. For those who are seriously thinking about tithing, consider these answers to the question, "What happens when I tithe?"

When I tithe I feel personal satisfaction of pleasing God. Tithing is a biblical teaching. Leviticus 27:30

*(Tithe on page 9)*

### Jerry's Story

Jerry's Story

This is a short story that I had to share. It is one of those simple truths that we all have a hard time remembering, when we are in the thick of it.

JERRY, A story to share.

Jerry is a restaurant manager in Philadelphia. He is always in a good mood and invariably has something

*(Jerry Story on page 13)*

### A Window into the Soul of Humankind

As human beings we have a long way to go. A long way to learn to accept each other for who we are. A long way to learn to understand each other. A long way to appreciate each other. For some reason, we appear to get worse with each passing day; becoming more intolerable and more aggressive with our fellow citizens of this tiny earth that all of us inhabit.

Not to sound too pessimistic, I

*(Humankind page 10)*



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## *From The Pastor's Desk*

June 29, 2018

Dear Partners in the Faith,

We are excited to invite you to participate in the **Annual Celebrate Me Cultural Bazaar and Back to School Community Extravaganza** on Saturday, August 24, 2018. The purpose of this event is to strengthen our community by solidifying our relationships, and to embrace the diverse cultures that exist throughout our state. The City of Middletown has co-sponsored this event for years. We also have had political and civic leaders serving as honorary chair persons.

We are seeking your prayers and participation. We provided over 500 book bags with school supplies to kids of the community last year. The need gets greater every year.

**Celebrate Me Cultural Bazaar and Back to School Community Extravaganza** will be hosted by Cross Street A.M.E. Zion Church/Cross Street Training Academic Center (CSTAC) located at 440 West Street (and Wadsworth) in Middletown, Connecticut. Our event will begin at 10:00 A.M and end at 4:00 P.M. We had **over 40 vendors** last year and we are anticipating a larger crowd due to our success last year.

We hope you will embrace our vision for the **Celebrate Me Cultural Bazaar and Back to School Community Extravaganza**. We look forward to continuing to build new relationships. Thank you for your support! For more information contact the church office 860-344-9527.

Partners in Faith,

Pastor Moses L. Harvill

## How to Set a Faith Goal

***“I know that I have not yet reached that goal, but there is one thing I always do. Forgetting the past and straining toward what is ahead, I keep trying to reach the goal and get the prize for which God called me through Christ to the life above.” (Philippians 3:13-14 NCV)***

I believe in setting goals. I've set them all my life, because goals are simply statements of faith. The Bible says, “The just shall live by faith” and “Without faith it's impossible to please God” and “Whatsoever is not of faith is sin” and “According to your faith it will be done unto you.”

God always operates in your life by faith. That's why you need goals in your life, because a goal is a statement of faith. A goal says, “I believe God wants me to accomplish something by a certain date.” If you don't have a date, it's not a goal. It's a wish. It's a dream. It's a desire. But wishes are a dime a dozen; they're worthless. The only thing that will change your life is setting a goal. You've got to wake up from the dream and go to work!

A **“FAITH”** goal has five characteristics:

**Focused.** That means it is specific. If you use the words “more” or “less,” it's not a focused goal. “I want to be less angry” or “I want to weigh less” or “I want to be more like Jesus” are not goals because you can't measure them. You have to be specific.

**Attainable.** If you set an unrealistic goal, it's just going to discourage you. If you say, “I'm going to pray three hours a day,” you're setting yourself up for failure. Set a goal that stretches you and then trust God will help you stretch.

**Individual.** That means it's personal. You cannot set goals for other people because you can't control them. You can't set goals for your children, your husband, or your boyfriend or girlfriend. You can only set goals for yourself, because you can control you and not anybody else. The only way you can change other people is by changing yourself.

**Trackable.** Trackable goals can be measured. They're verifiable. You set a date and say, “By Nov. 30 I will have accomplished this, and by Dec. 30 I will have accomplished this, and by Jan. 30 I will have accomplished this.”

**Heartfelt.** Your goals have got to be heartfelt. You'll never reach a passionless goal. If you're not passionate about the goal, wait until you get passionate about it. If you don't have a deep desire to do it, don't set it.

I encourage you to set one spiritual goal for your life today. Maybe your goal is to have a quiet time for five minutes every day for the next month. That is a FAITH goal, and you can accomplish it in faith.

### Talk It Over

- What are the goals that you have been working toward? Do they meet the criteria of a FAITH goal?
- How does prayer play a role in the way you set goals?

What is a new goal that you believe God wants you to set after learning about FAITH goals?

By Rick Warren



**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:LONG-SUFFERING (PATIENCE)

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, LONG-SUFFERING, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." (Galatians 5:22,23)

LONG-SUFFERING is from the Greek word 'makrothumia' which speaks of steadfastness of the soul under provocation. It means forbearance and patient endurance of any ill-treatment, without anger or thought of revenge. LONG-SUFFERING, or PATIENCE ("Hupomone") is the God-given ability of a Christian to remain upright in spite of overwhelming circumstances, tests and tribulations. It is a sweet attitude toward any trial that God permits in the life of the Christian. It is what enables the Christian to "give thanks in everything".

LONG-SUFFERING is a product of faith. We must believe that God is at work in our lives and that we will not be forgotten by the God to whom we have committed the keeping of our souls. LONG-SUFFERING grows where there is a continual awareness of God. God is faithful and will not allow evil to overcome us, but our trust must be anchored only in Him. It is inward peace, as well as outward control.

How is LONG-SUFFERING produced? TROUBLE!! Trouble alone will make us impatient, but trouble connected with faith produces LONG-SUFFERING. LONG-SUFFERING is also produced by knowledge, faith and hope. When we understand what is going on we can patiently await the outcome. LONG-SUFFERING does not stand alone, it supports and is supported by the other fruit of the Spirit, for without love, faith, hope, kindness, etc., one cannot be patient. God's timing does not always coincide with our immediate plans, but LONG-SUFFERING offers opportunity for spiritual growth while waiting for God to intervene on our behalf. How do we recognize LONG-SUFFERING? Look for persons who:

- - have forgiving spirits. are enduring hardships, illness, or loss patiently
- - are obedient to God, even under great persecution
- - have control over their tempers and attitudes
- - despite great difficulty remain Christ like
- continue to praise and thank God in all things, whether good or bad
- face tribulations head on and do not try to escape the trial or take matters into their own hands.

### WARNING

Avoid the enemy of LONG-SUFFERING - impatience, which if allowed to take root leads to disobedience. Impatience is a direct stance against God.

### Additional Scriptures:

For a perfect example of LONG-SUFFERING, read the Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John to see how Jesus exhibited LONG-SUFFERING.; Colossians 1:11, Colossians 3:13, Luke 8:15, Luke 21:19, I Timothy 6:11, 12, The Book of Job, I Peter 2:19,20, Hebrews 6:10-15, 1 Peter 3:17, James 5.





## Walking in Faithfulness

**Key Scripture:** "A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent" (Proverbs 28:20).

**Key Thought:** Faithfulness in our lives stems from being full of faith.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for the fruit of faithfulness<sup>1</sup>. I desire to always be faithful in every area of my life. I yield myself to the work and power of your Holy Spirit, who enables me to walk in faithfulness by being steadfast, unmovable, trustworthy, and to be always abounding in your work, O God<sup>2</sup>.

Great is your faithfulness, O God,<sup>3</sup> and I draw near to

you now with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having my heart sprinkled and purified from an evil conscience by the blood of Christ. It is this truth that enables me to hold fast the profession of my faith without wavering, knowing that you are always faithful to your promise<sup>4</sup>.

I praise you, Father that you are at work in me, both to will and to do your good pleasure<sup>5</sup>. I believe you are producing the fruit of faithfulness in my life because I know this is your will for me. Thank you for helping me to be faithful and true.

**References:** (1) Galatians 5:22; (2) 1 Corinthians 15:58; (3) Lamentations 3:23; (4) Hebrews 10:22-23; (5) Philippians 2:13.

## 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> I embrace your Word which tells me that I am dead to sin, and my life is hid with Christ in God.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

Your Word declares that my heart will be found where my treasure is. Lord, I want you to be my treasure.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup>

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.



## 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!**

### PARABLE OF THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

**Devotional Reading:**  
 Colossians 3:12-17

**Scripture:**  
 Matthew 18:21-35

#### 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:** *Matthew 18:21-35*

*21 Then Peter came and said to him "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.*

*23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payments to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' 29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?'*

*34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."*

**Affirmation:** I will strive to forgive others even as Christ has forgiven me.

#### ENGAGE

##### Being Forgiven and Being Forgiving

There was a death row inmate who was released after being wrongfully accused. His community accepted him back, as did his place of employment. He was given the chance to begin again. Months later, a petition was circulated by members of his community advocating for mandatory life sentences rather than the death penalty. Instead of supporting the petition, the former inmate became a vocal opponent against it.

As a class or in pairs, compare this account with the parable Jesus told. Identify their similarities and differences, and discuss any conclusions drawn from the learners.

#### EDUCATE

Today's Scripture text is a familiar one to most Christians. It establishes the breadth of forgiveness that one should extend toward another. It also includes a parable instructing believers to respond to being forgiven by being forgiving.

We begin our lesson with Peter's introductory question in Matthew 18:21, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" (Note that the "church" had not yet been established. A better translation would be "my brother.") Most likely, when Peter asked this question, he was thinking that seven times is extremely generous when it comes to forgiving someone. Whether Jesus responded by increasing Peter's "generosity" to seventy-seven times or 490 times is unclear in Greek

*(Forgiveness on page 12)*

**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.**

# 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.

**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.

**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.

**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,<sup>[a]</sup> 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 boldly, as I ought to speak.

## Read the BIBLE in ONE Year

### July

1. Psalms 112-114
2. Psalms 115-118
3. Psalms 119
4. Psalms 120-123
5. Psalms 124-128
6. Psalms 129-132
7. Psalms 133-136

8. Psalms 137-139
9. Psalms 140-144
10. Psalms 145-147
11. Psalms 148-150
12. Proverbs 1-3
13. Proverbs 4-7
14. Proverbs 8-11
15. Proverbs 12-14

16. Proverbs 15-18
17. Proverbs 19-21
18. Proverbs 22-24
19. Proverbs 25-28
20. Proverbs 29-31
21. Ecclesiastes 1-3
22. Ecclesiastes 4-6
23. Ecclesiastes 7-9

24. Ecclesiastes 10-12
25. Song 1-4
26. Song 5-8
27. Isaiah 1-3
28. Isaiah 4-6
29. Isaiah 7-9
30. Isaiah 10-12
31. Isaiah 13-15

### AUGUST

1. Isaiah 16-18
2. Isaiah 19-21
3. Isaiah 22-24
4. Isaiah 25-27
5. Isaiah 28-30
6. Isaiah 31-33
7. Isaiah 34-36

8. Isaiah 37-39
9. Isaiah 40-42
10. Isaiah 43-45
11. Isaiah 46-48
12. Isaiah 49-51
13. Isaiah 52-54
14. Isaiah 55-57
15. Isaiah 58-60

16. Isaiah 61-63
17. Isaiah 64-66
18. Jeremiah 1-2
19. Jeremiah 3-5
20. Jeremiah 6-8
21. Jeremiah 9-12
22. Jeremiah 13-16
23. Jeremiah 17-20

24. Jeremiah 21-23
25. Jeremiah 24-26
26. Jeremiah 27-29
27. Jeremiah 30-32
28. Jeremiah 33-36
29. Jeremiah 37-39
30. Jeremiah 40-42
31. Jeremiah 43-46

### 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

## The Season After Pentecost

The Season After Pentecost covers 10-14 Sundays. The liturgical color is red for the Season After Pentecost.

Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after the day of Pentecost. This Sunday emphasizes the three-fold manifestation of the Godhead (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit/Ghost): three and yet one. White is the appropriate color.

**Color:** Red is symbolic of loyalty, power, witness, Christian zeal, blood, fire, the work and ministry of the Church, and the Holy Spirit.

## 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
<b>EL ELYON</b>	The God Most High	He is the Sovereign God in whom we can put our trust. El Elyon has supremacy over all false gods.
<b>ELOHIM</b>	The All-powerful One	God is the all-powerful creator of the universe. God knows all, creates all, and is everywhere at all times. The plural of “EL”.
<b>EL OLAM</b>	The Eternal God The Everlasting God	He is the Beginning and the End, the One who works His purposes throughout the ages. He gives strength to the weary.
<b>EL ROI</b>	The God Who See Me	There are no circumstances in our lives that escape His fatherly awareness and care. God knows us and our troubles.

*(Tithe from page 1)*

states, "The tithe...is the Lord's," and Malachi 3:10 instructs, "Bring ye all tithes into the storehouse," By giving a tithe or more, I can demonstrate in a tangible way my obedience to God.

When I tithe I acknowledge a relationship with God. This relationship expresses itself through faithfulness in living and giving. Giving a tithe is a constant reminder that God is owner and I am his manager. The Psalmist speaks of this special relationship: "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and they dwell therein." (Psalm 24:1). I can acknowledge His ownership and my stewardship responsibility every time I give a tithe to my church.

When I tithe I enhance the ministry of my church. Most ministries of the church are supported by member's gifts. Tithing, therefore, has a practical value as a systematic means of providing financial support to help my church accomplish its mission. When my church is supported by committed tithes, it can more adequately fund its ever growing list of ministries which include preaching the Word, winning the lost, teaching the saved, and extending its witness to the ends of this earth.

When I tithe I witness around the world. A conservative estimate is more than 125 million people in the United States are unsaved and 66 percent of the world's population doesn't know Christ as their personal Savior (Home Mission Board). Christ has commissioned the church to global discipleship. I can witness far beyond

my neighborhood to 120 countries by giving a tithe or more to my church each week.

When I tithe I reflect my priorities. Jesus admonished his followers to "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." (Matthew 6:33). Operating with a proper sense of priorities is one of the most difficult tasks. By setting aside at least the first tenth of my income for my church, I establish a pattern for giving and testify to God's priority in my heart.

When I tithe I exercise my faith in God. The decision to tithe, or not to tithe, is more likely related to faith than economics. Like other important life making decisions, tithing involves an act of faith. The scriptures abound with examples of giving by faith. Abraham giving his tithes; the widow giving all she had. Tithing can help me and others develop a greater faith in the adequacy and faithfulness of God to grow in giving.

**T** – Trust in GOD to provide for your needs.

**I** – Investment in the house of GOD.

**T** – Testimony to the LORD.

**H** \_ Holiness to the LORD.

**E** \_ Eternal joy.

# *Giving is Worship*

GIVING BACK TO THE ONE WHO FIRST GAVE

**"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.**

**Malachi 3:10**

*(Humankind from page 1)*

admit that we've continued to forge forward regardless of our attitudes towards each other. In perspective, we can point to much less global conflicts today than ever before. We can point to the absence of global pestilences and to less imminent aggression among our nations. Except for a few localized places still dealing with conflicts and misunderstandings, the bulk of the world today is in some level of peacetime tranquility. On all levels of human interactions, we appear to be doing much better than our past ancestors ever did. Regardless of what appears to be some kind of peace and harmony, there are a number of indicators that tell different tales of who we are and how we feel about each other.

How do I know any of this and what credence do I put into my assertions? Easy. The World Cup, that's from where I get my data. The World Cup is the biggest event there is. Much bigger than the rest of all other events combined. More than any other global event, this universal tournament of soccer loving nations, provides social entrepreneurs the unique opportunity to look into the soul of human existence. That is, if you pay attention.

As a matter of disclosure, and for those who disregard and dismiss history, I'll just like to refresh our memories with some of the highlights of conflicts that occasionally happen among nations in the name of sports. The most glaring and seriously outstanding in recent history was the 'soccer war' of 1969 between Honduras and El Salvador. Similar aggressive conflicts had happened between ancient Greeks and the Romans in the name of sports. How about the European riot instigated by a bunch of Russian football fanatics who thrashed another European stadium and were subsequently banned from participation in the games for a number of years. These and many such conflicts happen so glaringly they cannot be disregarded. They are reported on for all to read. They take place all over the world; conflicts take place all the time between nations, among clubs and individuals as a result of sports. Calling spade by its name, let's be more specific and call it football; known in the U.S. as soccer.

The aggressive tendencies stemming from anger and sometimes leading to an all out war prompted by sports and other competitive events are very well known and widely documented. What I am referring to here are the subtle behaviors and attitudes we observe just by watching the players in their natural relationships with their opponents while engaged in the game of the sport.

A very popular Premier League forward player for Manchester City, representing his country gets into an

entanglement with a defender on the opponent team. As they disentangle and disengage, the Etihad player slams the ball into the still prostrate, defenseless player and almost steps into his face with his metal-cleated shoes.

The captain of the Brazilian team leaps up to head a ball coming his way, the next thing, witnessed by all, is an opponent with his knee high in the air who bumps into the Brazilian's spine, bringing him down aggressively with a thud heard the world over. He had to be carried off the field never to return and was reported to have had surgery subsequently, before being able to play again.

A Tunisian player is whistled for un-sportsman-like behavior towards an opponent. He rushes to the referee and flares his anger and fury and disdain to the official, while on world wide television. He seems to display his utmost disgust for authority.

A Japanese player falls hard and lies writhing in pain and agony, but an opponent player runs to his side and gestures to him to cut the fakery off. In the end, the injured player had to be carted off the field with an unspecified injury. Never to return to the game.

A striker positions himself in front of the goal posts, readying for an impending corner kick, only to find himself surrounded by two opponent defenders who effectively picks him up and drops him to the ground, while the entire universe watches on television.



## FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA 2018

After a particular match is completed and fans are slowly easing out of the stands, several others could be seen picking up debris and cleaning up, apparently determined to tidy up the stands for the next match.

Two players could be seen, right after a tough match had ended, to be taking off their upper jerseys and exchanging them with each other.

A grieving player is seen being consoled by a member of the opposing team, hugging and whispering into each other's ears, until the saddened one finally straightens up and walks off hand in hand with his sympathizing opponent.

A replacement is announced and the referee puts the match momentarily on hold in order for the new player to take his place as the retiring player walks off the field. As soon as they reach the edge of the field, the players hug each other. One player turns and waves to the crowd as the incoming player touches the turf and repeatedly makes the sign of holy trinity while eagerly rushing to take his place in the game.

*(Humankind on page 11)*

*(Humankind from page 10)*

A single goal is scored, the stadium erupts with what sounds like the roof coming off the building. It is the applause of vociferous fans some visibly in painful tears of joy. And among them are youth and toddlers exclaiming their thunderous joy with families on this trip that must have cost them a lot of resources.

Each of these spotlight events provide invaluable guide into the innermost cultural mechanizations that molded the individuals involved in the action we observe. In the most famous incidence, it has been confirmed that from time immemorial, Japanese sports fans have made it a habit to ensure that they leave any sports arena as clean and tidy as it was when they got in. Censored into their psyche, they bring their character out into the open for all to see.

Disrespect for authority and utter disdain for control and order will come out from those who look on the referee as a despot rather than the official charged with the responsibility to maintain fairness and equity.

There is an Akan proverb that translates as following – that ‘irrespective of how long a piece of log lies in a pond, it will never become an alligator’. Who we are, and what character we are made of is what lead us into the world. That is what defines us, regardless of how hard we try to put a lid on. Charity begins at home; it is not formulated after one leaves the nest. Trust me.

By Kwame Ocansey

### **God Wants Whatever You’ve Got**

Rick Warren

**“Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?’ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.” (John 6:5b-6 NIV)**

Do you remember the story of Jesus feeding 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish? I think it’s amazing that out of 5,000 people, only one person brought a lunch. I’m thinking a lot of people were hiding a picnic basket under their robes because they didn’t want to share with anybody else. But one little boy offered the bread and fish that he packed for his lunch. He gave Jesus what little he had, and God used it not just to feed a lot of people but also to show them how much he cared and how powerful he is.

God always starts with what you have. You may not have much time. Your finances may not be worth much. You may not think you have much talent.

But you can give God everything in your life. Give him your heart. Give him your reputation. Give him your past, your present, and your future. It may not be much, but you can give him your five loaves and two fish.

In John 6:5-6 Jesus asks, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?’ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do” (NIV).

Jesus wasn’t sweating how to feed 5,000 people. He already had in mind what he was going to do. He saw the need long before they did. And he had a plan.

You need to understand this truth today: God always has the answer before you even know the problem. God is not sweating your unsolvable problem. It’s not too late in the day for Jesus. He saw your problem long before you did. He knew it was coming, and he already had a plan for it. God knows the solution to your problem before you even recognize it’s a problem.

So why are you worrying? Just admit you have an unsolvable problem, and then give God everything you have.

#### **Talk It Over**

When you face an unsolvable problem, is your first reaction to look at your own resources or God’s promises?

Why?

What does it mean to give God something?

Why do you think God wants us to surrender what we have before he works a miracle?

(*Forgiveness from page 6*)

text. Regardless, the point Jesus was making was that there is no mathematical formula or numerical standard for forgiveness - it is limitless. This in no way implies that Christian love is one that habitually turns a blind eye to sin or offenses. The Bible teaches that accountability, along with honesty and responsibility, are also attributes of godly character that believers should embody. However, there are times when mercy should be granted, in spite of the offense.

In the parable, the servant did not ask the king to be forgiven of the debt, but rather asked for mercy and time to pay off the debt, which amounted to ten thousand talents. By today's standards, a person with simply five talents of gold or silver would be considered a multimillionaire, according to New Nave's Topical Bible. Jesus exaggerates the amount of the debt owed in order to convey to His hearers that the debt was impossible to settle. (In a way, Jesus was foretelling that humanity's sin debt - which was impossible to settle by human standards - would soon be forgiven because He would pay it in full, on behalf of all humanity, at Calvary.) In those days, kings did not accept excuses for non-payment, which made the absolution of the servant's astronomical debt all the more incredible. But how did the servant respond to such a gracious and merciful act? He failed to pay it forward to a man who, like him, requested mercy and time to pay off a debt that was equivalent to only about three month's wages. (This translates to about one-millionth of the amount of that the servant was forgiven.) Instead of showing the same mercy that he just benefited from, the servant threw the man into prison.

"The world's worst prison is the prison of an unforgiving heart. If we refuse to forgive others, then we are only imprisoning ourselves and causing our own torment...What was wrong with this man? The same thing that is wrong with many professing Christians: They have received forgiveness, but they have not really experienced forgiveness deep in their hearts. Therefore, they are unable to share forgiveness with those who have wronged them. If we live only according to justice, always seeking to get what is ours, we will put ourselves into prison. But if we live according to forgiveness, sharing with others what God has shared with us, then we will enjoy freedom and joy,"

### ELEVATE

Forgiveness is a topic that can sometimes be challenging. People with deep wounds that are recently received may need time to heal somewhat before entertaining the idea of forgiving. Even today's lesson may have caused the recollection of disturbing experiences or unresolved issues that were buried somewhere in the subconscious. For some, holding on to

a grievance makes them feel less, vulnerable - at least for a while.

Fantasizing about retaliation and revenge can be compelling and self-gratifying; but it can also become dangerously all-consuming and lead to acts of violence. Sometimes people decide not to forgive because they have equated it with letting a person off the hook or giving permission for them to keep committing the offense. These are but a few reasons why forgiveness can be a difficult topic to discuss.

As Christians, we must be careful not to minimize a person's woundedness by saying, "Just tell Jesus!" Or, "You've just got to let go, and let God! OR asking, "Where is your faith?" instead, let us listen to their story and truly empathize with their painful experience. Then, let's replace those well-intended analyses and recommendations with a simple ministry of presence, prayerfulness, and patience for our brothers and sisters who are finding it difficult to forgive.

Two recommended resources:

1. "Forgiving the Unforgivable" - David Stoop (available in paper back or Kindle)
2. "Forgiveness and Restoration"

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/divorce-and-infidelity/forgiveness-and-restoration/forgiveness-what-it-is-and-what-it-isnt>.

### I THINK:

1. Invite willing participants to relate personal experiences about either giving or receiving forgiveness. Discuss feelings involved. Was it difficult to forgive? Why or why not? Is there any situation in which you think forgiveness should not be given? Why or why not? How does this line up with today's lesson?
2. Hold a debate about whether justice is served when the offending party is forgiven rather than punished.
3. Create a litany about forgiveness.

**VERSE OF THE WEEK: "Should you not have mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?"**  
**Matthew 18:33**

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

*(Jerry Story from page 1)*

positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would always reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!" Many of the waiters at his restaurant quit their jobs when he changed jobs, so they could follow him around from restaurant to restaurant. The reason the waiters followed Jerry was because of his attitude. He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Jerry was always there, telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Jerry and asked him, "I don't get it! No one can be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?" Jerry replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, I have two choices today. I can choose to be in a good mood or I can choose to be in a bad mood. I always choose to be in a good mood."

Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. I always choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life. I always choose the positive side of life." But it's not always that easy," I protested. "Yes it is," Jerry said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people will affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. It's your choice how you live your life."

Several years later, I heard that Jerry accidentally did something you are never supposed to do in the restaurant business: he left the back door of his restaurant open one morning and was robbed by three armed men. While trying to open the safe, his hand, shaking from nervousness, slipped off the combination. The robbers panicked and shot him. Luckily, Jerry was found quickly and rushed to the

hospital. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Jerry was released from the hospital with fragments of the bullets still in his body.

I saw Jerry about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Want to see my scars?" I declined to see his wounds, but did ask him what had gone through his mind as the robbery took place. "The first thing that went through my mind was that I should have locked the back door," Jerry replied. "Then, after they shot me, as I lay on the floor, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or could choose to die. I chose to live." "Weren't you scared?" I asked. Jerry continued, "The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the Emergency Room and I saw the expressions on the faces of the physicians and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, read 'He's a dead man.' I knew that I needed to take action." "What did you do?" I asked. "Well, there was a big nurse shouting questions at me," said Jerry. "She asked if I was allergic to anything." "Yes," I replied. The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Bullets!' Over their laughter, I told them, "I am choosing to live. Please operate on me as if I am alive, not dead." Jerry lived thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude.

I learned from him that every day you have the choice either to enjoy your life or to hate it. The only thing that is truly yours that no one can control or take from you -is your attitude, So if you can take care of that, everything else in life becomes much easier.

Now you have two choices to make:

1. You can forget you read this message or
2. You can share it with someone you care about.

I hope you selected #2. I did.

**Smiling is a sign of Good Mood,  
Laughing is a sign of  
Happiness,  
Praying is sign of Good Faith,  
And having a friend is a sign of  
God's Blessings!  
Thanks for being my friend!**

*(Forgiveness from page 1)*

That is amazing love! Here are some encouraging Scripture quotes about forgiveness.

**Isaiah 55:6-7** “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

### God’s Character is Forgiving

**Psalm 51:17** *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

**Psalm 86:4-5** *Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.*

**Psalm 103:8-12** *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

**Isaiah 1:18** “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

### Jesus Invites and Forgives

**Matthew 5:22-24** *But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*

**Matthew 11:28-30** “... Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

**Luke 7:47-48** “...Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” (Jesus speaking to the accusers and the woman caught in adultery)

**Luke 23:43** “And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” (Jesus speaking to

*the thief on the cross)*

**John 4:13-14** *Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (Jesus speaking to the woman at the well)*

### God’s Gift to All – The Only Way

Seek the LORD while He may be found ... call upon His name

**Acts 4:10-12** “... let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Peter speaking to the rulers of the people and the elders at Jerusalem)

**Acts 10:42-43** “...And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” (Peter speaking of what Jesus commanded the Apostles to do)

**2 Corinthians 5:18-19** *All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.*

**Ephesians 1:7-10** *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*

**Colossians 1:13-14** *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

### The Christian’s Attitude of Forgiveness

**Matthew 6:14** *For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you (attitude: forgive because you love the Lord)*

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7** *Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not*

*(Forgiveness on page 15)*

*(Forgiveness from page 14)*

*insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (attitude: can love cover it?)*

**2 Corinthians 2:5-8** *Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. (attitude: stand ready to forgive)*

**Galatians 6:1-2** *Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. (attitude: approach gently and stand ready to restore the relationship)*

**Ephesians 4:31-32** *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (attitude: loving and forgiving just like God forgave you)*

## Christian Quotes About Forgiveness

*“A forgiveness ought to be like a canceled note, torn in two and burned up, so that it can never be shown against the man.” ~ Henry Ward Beecher*

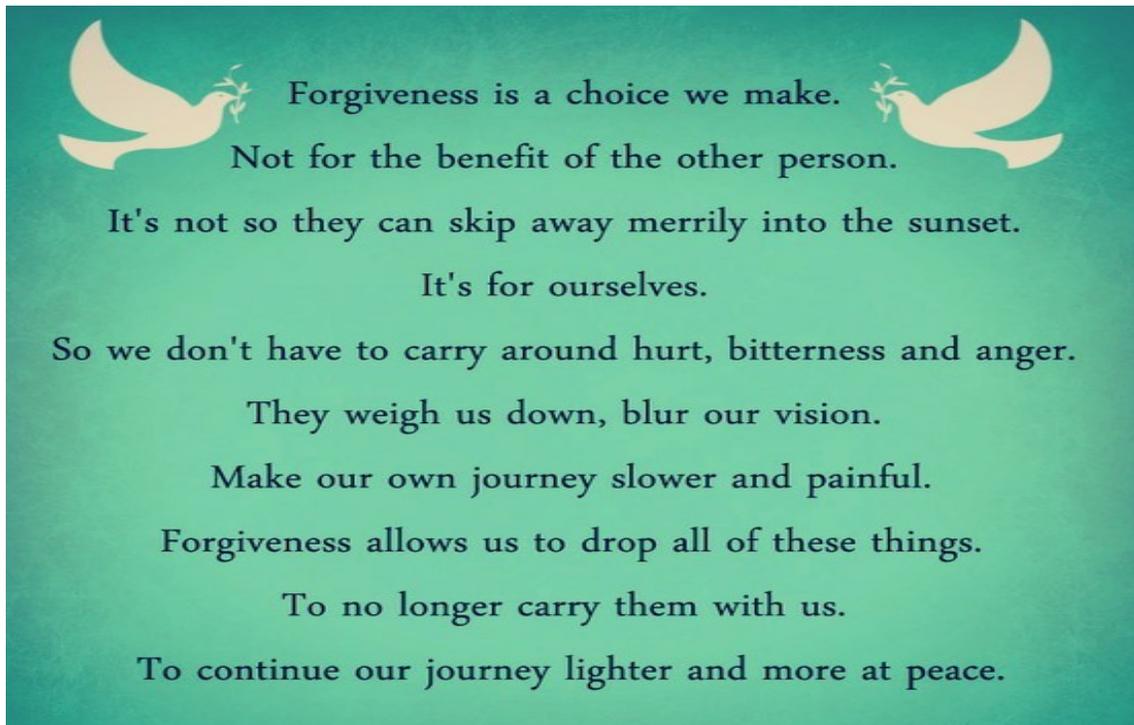
*“Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart.” ~ Corrie Ten Boom*

*“Man has two great spiritual needs. One is for forgiveness. The other is for goodness.” ~ Billy Graham*

*“Forgiving and being forgiven are two names for the same thing. The important thing is that a discord has been resolved.” ~ C.S. Lewis*

*“To err is human, to forgive, divine.” ~ Alexander Pope*

The Holy Bible, English Standard Version  
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## Good Morning Prayer for Today Barbara Perry

Father, we choose to put You first in everything that we do. We choose to set the tone for our day by starting it with You. Draw us close to You and empower us by Your Spirit to fulfill the dreams and destiny that You have placed within us. In Jesus we choose to trust in You. We release frustration over the dreams and desires in our heart, knowing that You know what's best for us. We choose also to trust in Your timing because You are faithful. Father, we thank You for this day. Thank You for another opportunity to sing Your praises. We choose to set our mind and heart on You. We choose to rejoice and be glad in You. In Jesus name! Amen.

### 25th Pastoral Appreciation Banquet May 18, 2018



## ***WORDS TO LIVE BY***

It took me a long time to understand what it means to forgive someone. I always wondered how I could forgive someone who chose to hurt me? But after a lot of soul searching, I realized that forgiveness isn't about accepting or excusing their behavior... it's about letting it go and preventing their behavior from destroying my heart.



*Finding My Peace*

**TREASURE IN HEAVEN**

READ: Revelation 21:1-5

*He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Revelation 21:5*

**K**atie was given a school assignment to write an essay entitled "My Perfect World." She wrote: "In my perfect world...ice cream is free, lollipops are everywhere, and the sky is blue all the time, with only a few clouds that have interesting shapes." Then her essay took a more serious turn. In that world, she continued, "No one will come home to bad news. And no one will have to be the one to deliver it."

No one will come home to bad news. Isn't that wonderful? Those words point powerfully to the confident hope we have in Jesus. He is "making everything new"-healing and transforming our world (Revelation 21:5).

Paradise is the place of "no more" -no more evil, no more death, no more mourning, no more pain, no more tears (V.4)! It is a place of perfect communion with God, who by His love has redeemed and claimed believers as His own (V.3). What marvelous joy awaits us!

We can enjoy a foretaste of this perfect reality here and now. As we seek to fellowship with God daily, we experience the joy of His presence (Colossians 1:12-13). And even as we struggle against sin, we experience, in part, the victory that is ours in Christ (2:13-15), the One who fully conquered sin and death. Poh Fang Chia

*Lord, thank You the You are making all things new. Help us to live in the hope of the day we will live with you, pure and blameless, on a new earth in Your presence forever and ever.*

*God's perfect world is for all who believe in Jesus.*

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

<p><b>Tuesday, July 10</b>                  6:00 pm  <b>Alive in The Word</b>                  Devotion: 6:00-6:15 pm                  Preaching by Rev. Myrtle Turner: 6:15-6:35 pm                  Teachable moments from Pastor: 6:35-6:50 pm                  Prayer: 6:50-7:00 pm</p> <p><b>Wednesday, July 11</b>                  12:00 pm  <b>Senior Luncheon</b>                  Men &amp; Women 55 or better are welcome to attend</p> <p><b>Wednesday, July 11</b>                  6:00 pm  <b>Young Adult Fellowship</b>                  Please Note: Young Adult Fellowship will be meeting EVERY OTHER Wednesday @ 6:00 pm</p> <p><b>Thursday, July 12</b>                  6:00 pm  <b>All Women of the Church Meeting with Pastor</b></p> <p><b>Monday, July 15</b>                  Following Morning Worship  <b>All Classes Meeting with Pastor</b>                  Please bring a salad dish (mixed greens, pasta, tuna, potato, and/or others)</p>	<p><b>Saturday, July 21</b>                  12:00 pm - 4:00 pm                  New Jerusalem Christian Center's  <b>9th Annual Community Day Event</b>                  On the South Green in Middletown, CT. Cross Street will be participating in this event!</p> <p><b>Tuesday, July 24 - Friday, July 27</b>  <b>Vacation Bible School</b></p> <p><b>Saturday, July 28</b>                  1:00 pm - 6:00 pm  <b>Cross Street Church Cookout</b>                  @Pierson Park, Cromwell, CT</p> <p><b>August 1</b>                  12:00 pm  <b>Senior Luncheon</b>                  Men &amp; Women 55 or better are welcome to attend</p> <p><b>Thursday, August 2</b>                  6:00 pm  <b>Women's Bible Study</b></p> <p><b>Saturday, August 4</b>                  9:00 am  <b>Fill The Bus</b>                  We will be in Washington Plaza in front of Big Lots @ 820 Washington Street, Middletown, CT. Please come out and support our children for the new school year and help us <b>FILL THE BUS</b></p>	<p><b>Saturday, August 11</b>                  9:00 am 3:00 pm  <b>Youth Car Wash</b>                  Detail to come!</p> <p><b>Saturday, August 25</b>  <b>BACK-2-SCHOOL &amp; CULTURAL BAZAAR</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday, September 5</b>                  12:00 pm  <b>Senior Luncheon</b>                  Men &amp; Women 55 or better are welcome to attend</p> <p><b>Thursday, September 6</b>                  6:00 pm  <b>Women's Bible Study</b></p> <p><b>Sunday, September 16</b>                  10:00 am  <b>NATIONAL BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY</b></p> <p><b>Saturday, September 29</b>  <b>8th Annual Women's Health Conference</b>                  Detail to come!</p>
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**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**



## 2018 - 2019 EVANGELIZING - EQUIPPING - EMPOWERING JOYFULLY SERVING & GIVING

### 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, some-  
how!

#### 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 asun-  
der 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!!!**