

Overcoming Discouragement

by Josh Blackmer Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Discouragement is a very real danger - a weapon that Satan wields very proficiently. Discouragement has the potential to destroy us, thus Paul warned about it ([Gal. 6:9](#)). The following are some suggestions that should help us overcome this threat.

Focus our eyes on heaven. Life is meaningless without God ([Eccl. 1:2](#)). Our eyes need to be focused upon the goal of our life. Setting our minds on things above keeps us looking up ([Col. 3:2](#)). Jesus, for the joy that was set before Him, endured the pain and shame of His death ([Heb. 12:2](#)). This helps us keep things in perspective.

Counting our blessings is more than just a song. Don't allow a few negative things to monopolize our attention. No matter the adversity we face, there are many reasons we can still thank God. To mope and complain after all that God has done for us is a sign of ingratitude ([Phil. 4:4, 11](#)).

Look outward rather than inward gets the focus off whatever we are struggling with. "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" ([Acts 20:35](#)). A truthful paradox is to bear another person's load will lighten your own. Much of our discouragement can be dispelled by obeying God's command to be a kingdom of servants. We were created for good works ([Eph. 2:10](#)).

Remember that God demands faithfulness, not success ([Rev. 2:10](#)). Self-appointed goals often bring feelings of discouragement and failure. It is our job to plant and water, and God gives the increase ([1 Cor. 3:6](#)). We run the race, fight the fight, and labor for the goal of the next life and to be rewarded by our heavenly Father ([2 Tim. 2:4-6; 4:7-8](#)).

We know the outcome of the story. The book of Revelation emphatically tells us that when all is said and done we, who have trusted in Christ, are victorious! Because we know that we will attain the mountaintops, why then worry when we find ourselves in some rather deep dark valleys, for we know that it is only temporary ([Rev. 12:11; 14:13](#)).

Let us not be so discouraged that we forget what lies ahead. "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus ([Phil. 3:13-14](#)). Yes, things happen that can be discouraging. We must not let it be an occasion for Satan to get a foothold in our hearts and blind us from the promises of our Lord. We can make a shipwreck of our souls on the rock of despair.

NEWSLETTER

March 19, 2023

Mark Dailey, evangelist
(716) 754-2752

minister@lasallechurchofchrist.org

Schedule of Services

Our current schedule is:

Sunday Bible Class 10:00 AM

Sunday AM Worship 11:00 AM

Ladies' Bible Class meets on Tues. at 10 AM
starting Mar. 21, 2023 meeting every other week.

La Salle
church of Christ

We Meet At

1121 N. Military Rd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Phone (716) 283-1214

Website: lasallechurchofchrist.org

This bulletin can also
be found on our website.

We seek to be a place of healing and worship.



We welcome all who are here today.

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



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



Read God's Word

We offer a **free** Bible Correspondence Course

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

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

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

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

Roger Mapes Let's pray for him as he recuperates.

Linda Stine, fell recently. Let's pray as she recovers.

Jessica Alcorn had a good report on a recent scan. She thanks all for the cards, calls, and prayers on her behalf.

Candi Butcher was recently admitted to the hospital with low oxygen levels. Word was received Wednesday that she was back home.

Marietta McArthur (Ray McArthur's mother) Let's keep her in our prayers as well as family members.

Cheryl Moore-Johns (lifelong friend of Bev McArthur) She is facing several surgical procedures. She recently had oral surgery and will have surgery on her left shoulder in April. She is thankful for our prayers.

Lamont, Louella Hopkins' brother, is dealing with kidney cancer and had an appt. at Roswell Mon. Mar. 13.

Laval, Louella Hopkins' brother, age 83, is dealing with pneumonia.

Miranda, Louella Hopkins' granddaughter, is expecting and is due in July. She is Type-1 diabetic and is having problems with her sugar and blood pressure. She is wearing monitors. She has pre-eclampsia and gestational hypertension. There is an 80% chance she will deliver by cesarean.

Jody, Jim Mellott's daughter, has been dealing with Covid.

David Kris Kinney is asking for prayers for him as he will be deployed to Poland.

Cheryl, Bruce Brink's future mother in law is facing surgery.

Let's pray not only for those that are physically sick but those that are spiritually sick as well.

Please keep our loved ones and their caregivers in your thoughts and prayers.

Let's pray for our members that have ongoing health and other issues.

Let's pray for family, friends, and loved ones of our members who are having health and other issues.

Let's pray for our shut-ins, widows and widowers, and call, send cards, and be of service.

Let's pray for those dealing with family situations as well as work situations.

Let's pray for those dealing with weather related disasters.

Let's pray for those of our number who are looking for employment.

Let's pray for those that are traveling. May they have a safe journey.

Let's pray for God's people that are doing mission work all over the world.

Let's pray for people the world over that we may all learn to get along with each other.

Let's pray for those taking Bible correspondence courses at the present time.

Let's pray for children, families, and the staff at *Potter Children's Home and Family Ministries*.

Let's pray for the work being done at Great Lakes Christian High School in Beamsville, ONT.

Let's pray for our neighbors receiving *House to House-Heart to Heart* that they have receptive hearts.

Notice:

If you are the last one out of the building please make sure to close the door between the foyer and the front of the auditorium and also between the foyer and the back of the auditorium. Please make sure all Entrance/Exit doors are locked and secure. Also, please make sure all lights are turned off. Thank you.

Upcoming Events *(Lord willing)*

Mar. 19 ~~Business Mtg.~~ Postponed until April meeting.

Mar. 21 Ladies Class resumes.

Apr. 09 Easter

Apr. 16 Men's Business Meeting

Apr. 29 Ladies Day at Amherst church of Christ

Weekly Budget Amount \$1,843.00

Contribution Last Sunday \$5,920.00

Attendance Last Sunday 32

Financial Reports and Meeting Minutes are posted in the back.



Weather permitting, class will resume starting March 21st at 10 AM at the building. Class will meet every other week. Lesson 7. Questions? See Jean Cameron.

Mission Info

Please check the *Mission Board* in the back.

Ukraine Relief

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

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

Philippines

Caleb Callari with his wife Vanessa and family are doing mission work in the Philippines.

Caleb & Vanessa Callari
PO Box 0241
Talamban, Cebu City
Philippines 6000

Email Address: callari.mission@gmail.com

Radio Program "Everyday Follower" can be found on YouTube.
Do a search on youtube.com for "School of National Evangelism Philippines."

Zambia

The LaSalle congregation has been involved in the Zambia mission work for many years.

If you would like to help support the Zambian Mission, please place funds in the offering basket marked for Zambia. More information may be found at www.zambiamission.org

Matthew 19:14

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Attention Men

We encourage the men who participate in the service to use the microphone so as to be heard.

Examples of participating in the service include the Lord's table which includes talking and praying. Please speak loud enough and please don't mumble.

Another example is opening and closing prayer. Sometimes this is done from the pew. Please speak up so as to be heard by everyone. The same is true for reading scripture, please speak loud enough to be heard by everyone. Thank you for your cooperation.