



The Cross

Cross Street A.M.E Zion Church



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

JULY / AUGUST 2019 Volume 23 Issue 4

AFTER PENTECOST



*multiplying disciples
and adding churches*

**CONNECT
+
GROW
+
SERVE**

Do You Know Him

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

(Know Him on page 10)

Saturday, August 3

**Annual Family & Friends
Cookout**

@Pierson Park in Cromwell Ct

Saturday, August 10

9:00 am

Fill-the-Bus

Saturday, August 24

10:00 am

**Back-2-School & Cultural
Bazaar**

Be Large, Man. Be Large

There is an amazing story in the February 28, 2005 edition of the Sports Illustrated magazine about a Sudanese family that you got to read. Your local library should have a copy – hopefully. This family of seven escaped from war-torn Sudan in the mid 1980's and ended up in Bloomington, Indiana. Within 20 years, each one of the five children not only earned American college degrees but all of them did so on Division I basketball scholarships.

(Be Large on page 13)

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

(Faith Goals on page 12)

Carl's Garden

Carl was a quiet man. He didn't talk much. He would always greet you with a big smile and a firm handshake. Even after living in our neighborhood for over 50 years, no one could really say they knew him very well.

Before his retirement, he took the bus to work each morning. The lone sight of him walking down the street often worried us. He had a slight limp from a bullet wound received in

(Garden page 11)



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Facebook page

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From The Pastor's Desk

July 18, 2019

Dear Members of the Cross,

As you may know, I have returned by the grace of God and the appointment of Bishop Dennis V. Proctor as Pastor of the Cross Street AME Zion Church. We are excited about all that God is going to do here as we move forward in His purpose and plan for our church. Eledia Joins me in saying to you, thanks for your prayers and love.

I believe with all my heart, God has called us for such a time as this, and I still believe in the power of God to transform and change lives for His glory!

2020 Vison: 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

We give thanks for the blessing of a new conference year. I am privileged and honored to serve the greatest church in all Zion. This is the year of Expected Miracles. This is the year to allow the Holy Spirit to empower the "Body of Christ" to do great exploits for the Kingdom. Let's get reignited to do extraordinary works for the glory of God.

When Christ was here on earth, the fullness of God was available through Jesus Christ. But as arisen Christ, ascended to the throne, he himself will do through us, in terms of our personalities, and by the activity of our lives, greater works today than he did in the days of his flesh.

Christ wants to know are you available? He is ready to release Power that you will be able to produce miracles in the Church.

We will be that miracle of change – we will become radical in our faith, in our witness, in our service, in our giving and in the total picture of who we are.

Christ in us will cause us to produce new Disciples, new preachers, leaders, and a strong witness in the community.

Much love to all.

Faithfully Yours,

Pastor 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.



Walking With God

Walking in God's Word

Key Scripture: *"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God"* (Matthew 4:4).

Key Thought: Walking in the Word is a joyful journey.

Prayer: Lord God, your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. ¹ When I go, your Word will lead me. When I sleep, your Word will keep me. When I awaken, your Word will talk with me. ² Your Word is truly a lamp and a light for me. ³

Thank you for your Word which imparts faith to my heart. ⁴ As I believe your word, you fill me with all joy and peace, and I abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. ⁵

Therefore, I will not let your Word depart from my mouth as I meditate upon its truths day and night. I will walk in your Word daily, and I know you will fulfill your promise to make my way prosperous, and to fill my life with good success. ⁶

Dear God, your wonderful Word gives me life ⁷ because it is the Word of life. It reminds me that death and life are in the power of my tongue, ⁸ and that when I speak your Word, I speak forth life into my own heart and the hearts of others. As I continue to hold forth your word, Lord, help me to rejoice as in the day of Christ, knowing that my labor is never in vain in you, Father. ⁹ Help me to always be a doer of your Word, not only a hearer. ¹⁰ By keeping your Word, I realize that your love is made perfect in me. Give me your grace, Lord, to be both a doer and a keeper of your Word. ¹¹

Lord God, your way is perfect, and your Word is tried. You are my mighty buckler, and I put all my trust in you. ¹² I know your Word will never return to you without it having its desired effect. ¹³ Thank you for your Word, Father, and help me keep on walking in your Word.

Heavenly Father, I want to live by every word that comes from your mouth. ¹⁴ Your Word is wonderful to me; it is quick, powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. ¹⁵ I will walk in the light of your Word every day of my life.

References: (1) Psalm 119:105; (2) Proverbs 6:22-23; (3) Proverbs 6:23; (4) Romans 10:17; (5) 15:13; (6) Joshua 1:8; (7) Psalms 119:150; (8) Proverbs 18:21; (9) Philippians 2:16; (10) James 1:22; (11) 1 John 2:5; (12) Psalms 18:30; (13) Isaiah 55:10-12; (14) Matthew 4:4; (15) Hebrews 4:12.

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.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: TEMPERANCE.

TEMPERANCE: Possessing power, strong, having mastery or possession of; self-control. TEMPERANCE controls when self is out of control. Steady, balance. TEMPERANCE enables the saint of God to praise Him in discipline or testing, trials and the battles of life.

In the Book of Nehemiah, the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and "a city, in ancient days, without walls, had lost its sense of identity and all its defenses. It was prey to every kind of enemy, natural, as well as human". (The Fruit of the Spirit; John w. Sanderson). A life that lacks self-control is similar to a city with broken down walls because it lacks defense and every conceivable evil seeks to enter in. An uncontrolled body and an uncontrolled spirit is at risk for destruction and spiritual decay.

How to cultivate the fruit of Temperance (Consider the athlete's self-discipline code): 1. Aim- run to win 2. Follow training rules - deny self of things that will hinder your winning. 3. Constant, sustained effort - have a well-defined goal: an intelligent manner of life and continue pressing toward the goal. 4. Remember, "You are not your own. You are brought with a price" (I Corinthians 6:19,20) 5. Remember to call ever' faculty' into obedience to Christ, to the glory of God. 6. Allow the Holy Spirit's leading in reminding you of who you are, who God is, where you came from, and where you are headed.

How to Recognize Temperance

Look for persons who: * have control over their bodies and do not indulge in harmful activities * have control over their spiritual life. * do not exhibit pride in less than godly goals * are not defenseless, but is fully dressed in the armor of God * is not angry, envious or covetous * shows spiritual growth and maturity * has a passion to be Christ like.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES: Philippians 3:18, 19; Proverbs 16:32; Proverbs 25:28; Luke 15:11-13; I Corinthians



Lord Hear Our Prayers

When You Are Having Marital Problems

Key Scripture:

"Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you"
Ephesians 4:32

Key Thought: Marriage is our last, best chance to grow up" (Joseph Barth).

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for my spouse and family. Help me to put aside all bitterness, wrath, and anger so that I will be able to work on the issues of my marriage with your help.¹ I pray for my spouse, -----, right now, and as I do so, I know you are changing my heart. Thank you, Lord.

Thank you for my spouse, Father. I believe you gave him/her to me, because you did not want me to be alone.² Teach us how to communicate better, to be tenderhearted toward each other,³ and to be submissive to each other.⁴

Help me to do everything I possibly can to develop our marriage into the model you give us in Ephesians 5. Thank you for showing me that our marriage can be a relationship that is like Christ's relationship with His Church.⁵ Help me to do my part, Lord.

Thank you for joining me to my spouse as one flesh.⁶ Help me to love and respect my spouse at all times.⁷ It is my desire, Father, to serve you. Help me and my spouse to make the conscious choice together to choose to serve you at all times.⁸ Lead us to put you and your righteousness first in our lives and in our marriage.⁹

Thank you, Father, for showing me that my spouse and I are heirs together of your grace of life. Show me how to honor my spouse so that my prayers will never be hindered.¹⁰

Lord, I believe you are at work in my marriage, and I thank you that the troubles of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory you are going to reveal to us.¹¹

Reference: (1) Ephesians 4:31-32; (2) Genesis 2:18; (3) Ephesians 4:32; (4) Ephesians 5:21; (5) Ephesians 5; (6) Ephesians 5:31; (7) 1 Peter 3:7; (8) Joshua 24:15; (9) Matthew 6:33; (10) 1 Peter 3:7; (11) Romans 8:18.

The Needs of Your Family

Key Scripture: "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

Key Thought: "A happy family is but an earlier heaven" (Sir John Bowring).

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you are the one who sets the solitary into families,¹ and you have promised to be a Father to the fatherless.² I pray for my family, Lord, that you would ever watch over our comings and goings, and that underneath us we would always find your everlasting arms.³

Bless our family, Lord, and keep us safe from all harm.⁴ Plant your hedge of protection around us,⁵ and let us always dwell in safety.⁶ Thank you for blessing our family with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.⁷

Help me to remember that our home will be built through wisdom, and by understanding it will be established.⁸ By knowledge shall all the chambers of our home be filled with precious and pleasant riches.⁹ Thank you, Father.

Your Word, O Lord, declares that the home of the righteous shall be filled with much treasure.¹⁰ In times of wickedness, you have promised that the house of the righteous will stand.¹¹ Thank you, Father. I believe this promise, and I appropriate it for my home and family.

Because I believe on your Son, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I know that you have saved me, and I claim your promise that you will save my household as well.¹² Thank you, Father, for all your abundant blessings in my life and the lives of my family.

References: (1) Psalms 68:6; (2) Psalms 68:5; (3) Deuteronomy 33:27; (4) Proverbs 29:25; (5) Job 1:10; (6) Psalms 4:8; (7) Ephesians 1:3; (8) Proverbs 24:3-4; (9) Proverbs 24:4; (10) Proverbs 15:6; (11) Proverbs 12:7; (12) Acts 16:31.

Taken from Bible Prayers for all your needs by Victory House

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.

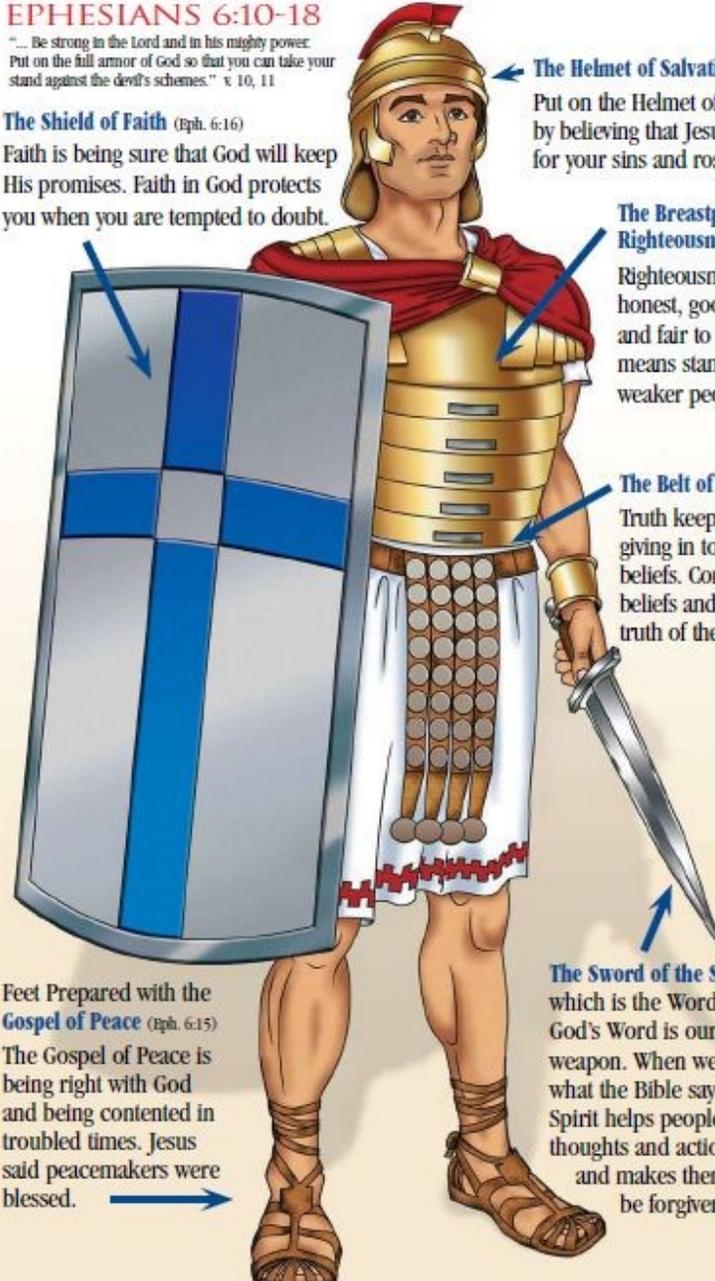
The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17)
Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

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 boldly, as I ought to speak.

Read the BIBLE in ONE Year

July

1. Psalms 112-114	8. Psalms 137-139	16. Proverbs 15-18	24. Ecclesiastes 10-12
2. Psalms 115-118	9. Psalms 140-144	17. Proverbs 19-21	25. Song 1-4
3. Psalms 119	10. Psalms 145-147	18. Proverbs 22-24	26. Song 5-8
4. Psalms 120-123	11. Psalms 148-150	19. Proverbs 25-28	27. Isaiah 1-3
5. Psalms 124-128	12. Proverbs 1-3	20. Proverbs 29-31	28. Isaiah 4-6
6. Psalms 129-132	13. Proverbs 4-7	21. Ecclesiastes 1-3	29. Isaiah 7-9
7. Psalms 133-136	14. Proverbs 8-11	22. Ecclesiastes 4-6	30. Isaiah 10-12
	15. Proverbs 12-14	23. Ecclesiastes 7-9	31. Isaiah 13-15

AUGUST

1. Isaiah 16-18	8. Isaiah 37-39	16. Isaiah 61-63	24. Jeremiah 21-23
2. Isaiah 19-21	9. Isaiah 40-42	17. Isaiah 64-66	25. Jeremiah 24-26
3. Isaiah 22-24	10. Isaiah 43-45	18. Jeremiah 1-2	26. Jeremiah 27-29
4. Isaiah 25-27	11. Isaiah 46-48	19. Jeremiah 3-5	27. Jeremiah 30-32
5. Isaiah 28-30	12. Isaiah 49-51	20. Jeremiah 6-8	28. Jeremiah 33-36
6. Isaiah 31-33	13. Isaiah 52-54	21. Jeremiah 9-12	29. Jeremiah 37-39
7. Isaiah 34-36	14. Isaiah 55-57	22. Jeremiah 13-16	30. Jeremiah 40-42
	15. Isaiah 58-60	23. Jeremiah 17-20	31. Jeremiah 43-46

SEPTEMBER

1. Jeremiah 47-49	8. Ezekiel 15-18	16. Ezekiel 40-42	24. Hosea 5-7
2. Jeremiah 50-52	9. Ezekiel 19-21	17. Ezekiel 43-45	25. Hosea 8-10
3. Lamentations 1-5	10. Ezekiel 22-24	18. Ezekiel 46-48	26. Hosea 11-14
4. Ezekiel 1-3	11. Ezekiel 25-27	19. Daniel 1-3	27. Joel 1-3
5. Ezekiel 4-7	12. Ezekiel 28-30	20. Daniel 4-6	28. Amos 1-3
6. Ezekiel 8-11	13. Ezekiel 31-33	21. Daniel 7-9	29. Amos 4-6
7. Ezekiel 12-14	14. Ezekiel 34-36	22. Daniel 10-12	30. Amos 7-9
	15. Ezekiel 37-39	23. Hosea 1-4	

The Season After Pentecost

The Season After Pentecost is sometimes referred to as Whitsuntide or Trinity season. This period has also been divided by some denominations into The Season After Pentecost and Kingdomtide. When the period is divided, The Season After Pentecost covers 10-14 Sundays, and Kingdomtide covers 13-14 Sundays.

Color: Red is the liturgical color for the Season After Pentecost. 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
EL ROI	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.
EL SHADDAI	The All Sufficient One, The God of the Mountains, God Almighty	God is the all-sufficient source of all of our blessings. God is all-powerful. Our problems are not too big for God to handle.
IMMANUEL	God With Us "I AM"	Jesus is God in our midst. In Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.
JEHOVAH	"I AM", The One Who Is The Self-existent One	God never changes. His promises never fail. When we are faithless, He is faithful. We need to obey Him.



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!

Jesus Teaches Us to Love One Another (Love from the Heart)

Devotional Reading: Genesis 2:18-24

Scripture: Romans 8:1-14

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.

Celebration: When we walk with the Lord in the light of His word, what a glory He sheds on our way! While we do His good-will, He abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey. Trust and obey, for there's no other way. To be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey.

Declaration: Romans 8:1-14

21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgement.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to hell of fire. 29 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. 26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you paid the last penny.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into

hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

31 "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Affirmation: We will gladly respond to Jesus' call to take practical steps to live righteously!

ENGAGE

1. Discuss the significance of the words of Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a right spirit within me" and the words of the modern day song, "Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee" as they may relate to emphasis on the inner purity that contrasts with the former prescriptions of outward actions.

2. In groups of twos discuss what it is about evil in the hearts of humans that is so repulsive to God that Jesus is highly concerned about removing. Consider God's words in Genesis 8:21b: "I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth," Have you taken notice of such in the hearts of people you know?

3. Do you have problems controlling what is in your heart and mind when you are trying to do what you know is right? Do you ever experience the division between your inner and outer self?

EDUCATE

In this passage of Scripture, Jesus begins his famous teaching style, "You have heard..., but I say unto you," wherein he contrasts with and expands what is in the Law of Moses, interpreted in outward terms, with his own teaching that stresses the need for the inner transformative power that controls our outward selves. One commentary sees a basic three-part pattern, indicating that Jesus first "gives a statement of a

(Guilt 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.

(Guilt from page 8)

commandment from the Law of Moses, framed as something taught from ancient times. Second, he presents an expansion of this law as given by later teachers and interpreters. Third, Jesus announces a more rigorous version of this teaching, looking to root out the cause of the sin in the heart, not just the action itself" (Standard Lesson Commentary 2018-2019, p395).

Notably, as he details in 5:17-20, how God values internal righteousness more than external righteousness, Jesus builds upon this teaching by focusing on the spirit of the Mosaic law in regard to its teachings on murder and adultery in Matthew 5:21-32.

Vv. 21-22: Love transforms how we relate to one another. In what form does this transformation come? Jesus teaches us how to be a reflection of his light through controlling our anger, being reconciled with others, immediately dealing with sin, and being faithful. When Jesus refers to controlling one's anger toward a brother or sister, He is not talking only about a literal family member, instead, he is referring to all members of the family of God. The word hell in the text comes from the Greek word gehenna. The word appears often in Matthew to refer to the eternal destination of the wicked (see Matthew 5:29-30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33). Hell is not to be confused with Hades (Luke 16:23), which was the underworld for the dead (known as Sheol in the Old Testament).

Vv. 23-26: Outward acts of piety or sacrificial offerings have no impact before God in cases where we are in disharmony or at odds with our fellow humans. We are commanded to make things right between our fellows before we come before God's altar.

Vv. 27-30: Here is one passage where the mere thought itself or desire in the heart is called the actual outward commission of the sin, which places great emphasis on what is conceived inwardly. An inward searching and cleansing of oneself is crucial in finding purity before God. How is this possible? Jesus is speaking in hyperbole when saying one should mutilate his or her body parts if they cause a person to sin. But he does mean for the close examination of one's thoughts and self-cleaning to take place.

Vv. 31-32: Jesus cites Deuteronomy 24:1-4 in his discussion of divorce. Moses had made a provision for divorce, but this did not equate to God's preferred actions in marriage. God intended for a man and woman to remain married for life because of their becoming one.

Regarding divorce, Matthew 5:32 mentions the exception of adultery, but the parallel in Luke 16:18 does not.

ELEVATE

As mentioned before, Jesus places before us in his Sermon the ideals that we are to strive for if we would be kingdom-dwellers. We must undergo a fundamental self-searching and self-cleansing as children of God. We must acknowledge our sin before God and seek to live the life of purity that is pleasing to God. But can we do this on our own? Certainly, we cannot. And that is why we have an advocate, Jesus himself, and the Holy Spirit to come to our aid. As believers, the Spirit of Christ is within us to teach, strengthen, and guide us in achieving the purity and righteousness God requires of us. But we must yield to the Spirit and allow it to work in us to make us pleasing to God. Jesus has already atoned for our sins and relieved us of the burden and responsibility of them, but we must be strong in the Spirit in resisting the temptation to sin.

We must be able to discern the difference between behavior motivated by external conformity and that which arises from inner convictions. What is the appeal of superficial or hypocritical religiosity? What steps can we take to move beyond such behavior and serve God out of the inner purity that Jesus commands? The Holy Spirit is our teacher in this and we must let the Spirit have its way.

I THINK:

1. Compare and contrast living by the letter of the Law to living by the spirit of the law.
2. Give personal example of when you have had to reconcile with other believers. How did you feel prior to reconciliation? How did you feel afterward?
3. Facilitate a discussion on figurative language used throughout the Bible. How do Christians know when to interpret a passage figuratively or literally?
4. Discuss the damaging effects of adultery to marriage. What are the physical, emotional, and spiritual consequences that accompany adultery?
5. List ways you can guard against being angry with brothers and sisters in Christ or entertaining lustful thoughts.

VERSE OF THE WEEK:

When you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:23-24.

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

(Know Him 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 thee 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."

(Garden from page 1)

W.W.II. Watching him, we worried that although he had survived W.W.II, he may not make it through our changing uptown neighborhood with its ever-increasing random violence, gangs, and drug activity.

When he saw the flyer at our local church asking for volunteers for caring for the gardens behind the minister's residence, he responded in his characteristically unassuming manner. Without fanfare, he just signed up. He was well into his 87th year when the very thing we had always feared finally happened.

He was just finishing his watering for the day when three gang members approached him. Ignoring their attempt to intimidate him, he simply asked, Would you like a drink from the hose? The tallest and toughest-looking of the three said, Yeah, sure, with a malevolent little smile. As Carl offered the hose to him, the other two grabbed Carl's arm, throwing him down. As the hose snaked crazily over the ground, dousing everything in its way, Carl's assailants stole his retirement watch and his wallet, and then fled.

Carl tried to get himself up, but he had been thrown down on his bad leg. He lay there trying to gather himself as the minister came running to help him. Although the minister had witnessed the attack from his window, he couldn't get there fast enough to stop it. Carl, are you okay? Are you hurt? The minister kept asking as he helped Carl to his feet.

Carl just passed a hand over his brow and sighed, shaking his head. Just some punk kids. I hope they'll wise-up someday. His wet clothes clung to his slight frame as he bent to pick up the hose. He adjusted the nozzle again and started to water. Confused and a little concerned, the minister asked, Carl, what are you doing? I've got to finish my watering. It's been very dry lately, came the calm reply. Satisfying himself that Carl really was all right, the minister could only marvel. Carl was a man from a different time and place.

A few weeks later the three returned. Just as before their threat was unchallenged. Carl again offered them a drink from his hose. This time they didn't rob him. They wrenched the hose from his hand and drenched him head to foot in the icy water. When they had finished their humiliation of him, they sauntered off down the street, throwing catcalls and curses, falling over one another laughing at the hilarity of what they had just done. Carl just watched them. Then he turned toward the warmth giving sun, picked up his hose, and went on with his watering.

The summer was quickly fading into fall. Carl was doing some tilling when he was startled by the sudden approach of someone behind him. He stumbled and fell into some evergreen branches. As he struggled to regain his footing, he turned to see the tall leader of his summer tormentors reaching down for him. He braced himself for the expected attack.

Don't worry old man, I'm not gonna hurt you this time. The young man spoke softly, still offering the tattooed and scarred hand to Carl. As he helped Carl get up, the man pulled a crumpled bag from his pocket and handed it to Carl. What's this? Carl asked. It's your stuff, the man explained. It's your stuff back. Even the money in your wallet. I don't understand, Carl said. Why would you help me now? The man shifted his feet, seeming embarrassed and ill at ease. I learned something from you, he said. I ran with that gang and hurt people like you. We picked you because you were old and we knew we could do it. But every time we came and did something to you, instead of yelling and fighting back, you tried to give us a drink. You didn't hate us for hating you. You kept showing love against our hate. He stopped for a moment. I couldn't sleep after we stole your stuff, so here it is back. He paused for another awkward moment, not knowing what more there was to say. That bag's my way of saying thanks for straightening me out, I guess. And with that, he walked off down the street. Carl

looked down at the sack in his hands and gingerly opened it. He took out his retirement watch and put it back on his wrist. Opening his wallet, he checked for his wedding photo. He gazed for a moment at the young bride that still smiled back at him from all those years ago.

He died one cold day after Christmas that winter. Many people attended his funeral in spite of the weather. In particular the minister noticed a tall young man that he didn't know sitting quietly in a distant corner of the church. The minister spoke of Carl's garden as a lesson in life. In a voice made thick with unshed tears, he said, Do your best and make your garden as beautiful as you can. We will never forget Carl and his garden.

The following spring another flyer went up. It read: Person needed to care for Carl's garden. The flyer went unnoticed by the busy parishioners until one day when a knock was heard at the minister's office door. Opening the door, the minister saw a pair of scarred and tattooed hands holding the flyer. I believe this is my job, if you'll have me, the young man said.

The minister recognized him as the same young man who had returned the stolen watch and wallet to Carl. He knew that Carl's kindness had turned this man's life around. As the minister handed him the keys to the garden shed, he said, Yes, go take care of Carl's garden and honor him. The man went to work and, over the next several years, he tended the flowers and vegetables just as Carl had done. In that time, he went to college, got married, and became a prominent member of the community. But he never forgot his promise to Carl's memory and kept the garden as beautiful as he thought Carl would have kept it. One day he approached the new minister and told him that he couldn't care for the garden any longer. He explained with a shy and happy smile, My wife just had a baby boy last night, and she's bringing him home on Saturday.

Well, congratulations! said the

(Garden on page 12)

(Garden from page 11)

minister, as he was handed the garden shed keys. That's wonderful! What's the baby's name? Carl, he replied.

The Best Mathematical Equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

That's the whole gospel message

simply stated. Take 60 seconds give this a shot! Let's just see if Satan stops this one.

All you do is:

1. Simply say a small prayer for the person who sent you this, (Father God bless this person in whatever it is that You know he or she may be needing this day!)

2. Then send it on to five other people. Within hours five people have prayed for you, and you caused a multitude of people to pray to God for other people. Then sit back and watch the power of God work in your life for doing the thing that you know He loves.

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 Goals from page 1)

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

(Be Large from page 1)

"All five Duanys graduated with academic honors, and Nyagon was the valedictorian of her class." Remember Omeka Okafor of University of Connecticut?

The original story was by L. Jon Wertheim and was adopted for the magazine with permission from the publishers, Putnam. If you follow NCAA March Madness, when Syracuse won the 2003 title the senior captain was Kueth Duany, one of the five children of Wal and Julia Duany. He "graduated with a double major in political science and information management and technology".

The story caught my attention for a very good reason. There is a school of thought that proposes that today's generation of African American children and their families have "no more excuses" to use as reason for not making "something of themselves". In fact, the principal of Keigwin Middle School, in his Black History Month presentation at Cross Street, used as his theme the same "no more excuses" theory. Coming from a school that has only recently been nationally recognized for its outstanding and spectacular achievements with the children, one would be excused if one became the latest graduate of this school of thought. Rather than quickly jumping to the conclusion that what one family had been able to do any other family should be able to duplicate, I still kept looking for the magic bullet.

Somewhere in the article, you will read this line: *"To the Duanys, those aren't unusual achievements so much as the normal fruits of opportunity. Their kids, they maintain, aren't necessarily extraordinary; they simply show what children with a structured upbringing can achieve."* Do you or do you not think that the Duany's assertion supports the "no more excuses" theory? I don't think so.

As I went through the story I finally hit it – the magic bullet. Here is what it says. *"Last year to his coach's dismay Bil, (the last of the five children) made barely half of his foul shots. There was even some doubt that he'd close the family circle by earning a Division I scholarship – not because he lacked game but because, like a lot of American teenagers, he lacked RESOLVE"* – caps are mine.

I am prepared to state without any hint of doubt in my mind that the magic word is "**RESOLVE**" and that applies in almost every endeavor of today's generation of children, ever more so with African American children. Resolve is powered by determination and resolution. It is the solid fixation of unflinching purpose. You don't teach 'resolve'. Resolve - the lack of it, and the inability of today's adults (and authorities) to understand the underlying principles of it, is the reason for most of our children not taking advantage of today's opportunities.

Who is right then, the "no more excuses" theorists or me? I insist that any child with any amount of "**RESOLVE**" can make it in this society of abundant opportunities and will need no excuses for any reason. Pure and simple. For years, I have championed a principle which I call the 'threshold' theory. It states that if you match two toads (one of which can jump exactly 9 inches with another that can jump up to 11 inches) on a ladder that has 10 inch gaps in the rungs, the mere 2 inch disadvantage will mean the difference between getting to the top of the ladder and never, ever clearing even the first rung. That meager 2 inches can clearly be viewed as lack of "**RESOLVE**". For businesses, it is the lack of "**PRODUCTIVITY**". For countries, it has always been the lack of "**TECHNOLOGY**". At this point I am saying that when it comes to today's children of this generation it is the complex, psychological phenomenon that is called "**RESOLVE**".

In the Duanys story, it is interesting to note that all the four older siblings urged their youngest brother's coach to be 'tough' on him in the hope of extracting the necessary 'RESOLVE' out of him to enable him to live to the family's legacy. It worked.

Today's issues are much more complex than before. As we strive for more of liberty, and freedom and opportunities, we have to contend with the accompanying menace of lack of 'fire' and 'passion' in the eyes of the new generation. No single solution appears to work. The days when our parents used one panacea to cure all ailments are long gone. What we still have with us, though, is the capacity to rise to the occasion and to be bigger than someone else has defined for us. Institutions such as churches and families have quite a series of challenges to meet. One way to help is to become more than we ever thought – centers of thought and reason. In my mind's eyes I can see Cross Street, for example, promoting regular panel discussions on various secular topics relevant to the community at large in its quest to meet some of these challenges of today.

Barbara Perry Speaks

"God Is On Your Side"

For what the law could not do, in that was weak through the flesh God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh. Romans 8:3 NKJV

Let us pray, "Heavenly Father, thank You for being on our side. We Thank You for equipping and empowering us to accomplish everything You've called us to do. Give us a deeper revelation of Your love for us today so that we can live the

abundant life You have prepared for us, In Jesus' Name. Amen"

God is on our side and I encourage you to let that sink down into your heart. Begin to expect His favor. Expect Him to work in your life. Focus on the fact that God has equipped you. He has anointed you and your best days are still out in front of you! See If God is for you, no one can rise against you! As you meditate on this promise, it will become real to you. You will walk in the favor and victory of God!

See as a believer in Jesus and a child of His, God is on our side! If we haven't thought about it yet today, I want you remember, we are created for greatness and there is no obstacle that can stop us because we're in the palms of God's hands. So quit telling yourself, "I'll always struggle in this area. I'll never lose this weight. I'll never get out of debt." Change your perspective. You are not weak, defeated or inferior. You are full of "can do" power.

"Failure Is Not Final"

Philippians 3:13 says ***"But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead..."*** Amen.

Let us pray, "Father God, thank You for Your hand of victory and blessing that is on our life. Today, we shake off the past, we shake off failure, we shake off poor choices and trust that You are restoring us and leading us into the plan You have for us in Jesus' name. Amen!"
Are you down on yourself today

because of past mistakes you've made or because you're not where you want to be in life? Well God knows every poor choice, every difficulty, every wrong turn you may have made, and He's already planned your comeback!

See today our failure is not final because God always has the final say. Our mistakes don't have to keep us from our destiny. Because God's plan can override every setback. Our world may be in turmoil today in a relationship, in your finances or health. But know this: not only

will God rescue you, He will set your feet on a rock and lead you to your final destination in life, Amen.

Remember, the promise He placed on the inside of you didn't go away because you had some personal failures. No, that failure is only temporary, because God Word remains forever! Keep hoping, keep believing.

"The Way To Get Ahead"

Proverbs 21:5 says, ***"Careful planning puts you ahead in the long run; hurry and scurry puts you further behind."*** Amen.

Let us pray, "God, our plate are full and we spend much of our time running, serving, doing. So today we ask that You remind us that it is OK to slow down and enjoy a quiet moment with You. We ask that You refresh our spirit and help us to live a balanced life with You at the top of our To-Do list, It is in Jesus' name, we claim it and receive Your Word, Amen,

Amen, Amen!"

It is amazing how we take a few minutes at the start of each of our day to plan and set our thoughts in the right direction. Those few minutes it can help us get ahead and empower us to accomplish so much more. Our days won't always go according to plan, but if we take each day to set our heart and mind in the right direction, focusing on God, we will be equipped for whatever comes our way!

See too often, we get so caught up in the activity of life that we tend to just "go

with the flow" instead. I'm not saying we shouldn't be flexible, but when it comes to our life, we should be the one setting the flow. So make plans to start your day right and set your thoughts in the right direction. God will guide us and direct our steps because His favor is surrounding us, Amen!

Remember: Just take five minutes a day, make spending time with Him a habit. Put God first place and let Him guide you and order your steps. Plan your day with Him because careful planning is the way to get ahead, Amen!

"Living With Enthusiasm"

"For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." Isaiah 55:12

Let us pray, "Heavenly Father, thank You for another sunrise, another day, another opportunity to praise You and pursue the dreams You've given us. We ask that You help us to stay filled with Your joy which is strength so we can serve You with our whole heart in

everything that we do in Jesus' name. Amen, Amen, Amen"

The word "enthusiasm" comes from the Greek word "entheos." "Theos" is God. When we're enthusiastic, it simply means we are full of God. When we get up in the morning excited about our future, recognizing that day is a gift and go out with a spring in our step, pursuing our goals and passionate about life, then God will breathe in our direction and when we're full of passion, we have the favor of God.

Yesterday, yesterday and you may have had some setbacks, the wind may have been taken out of your sail, but this is a new day! God wants to breathe new life back into you. If you'll get your fire back, get your passion back, the wind will start blowing once again, Amen!

Remember when we're in agreement with God, He can cause the winds of favor to shift in our direction, Amen!

WORDS TO LIVE BY

THE BEAUTY OF HOLLAND

I AM OFTEN ASKED TO DESCRIBE THE EXPERIENCE OF RAISING 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 HAVE A BABY, IT'S LIKE PLANNING A FABULOUS TRIP TO ITALY. YOU BUY A BUNCH OF GUIDEBOOKS AND MAKE YOUR WONDERFUL PLANS. THE COLISEUM, THE MICHELANGELO DAVID. THE GONDOLAS IN VENICE. YOU LEARN SOME HANDY PHRASES IN ITALIAN. IT'S ALL VERY, VERY EXCITING!

AFTER MONTHS OF EAGER ANTICIPATION, THE DAY FINALLY ARRIVES. YOU PACK YOUR BAGS AND OFF YOU GO. SEVERAL 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 SUPPOSED TO BE IN ITALY! ALL MY LIFE I'VE DREAMED OF GOING TO ITALY."

BUT THERE'S A CHANGE 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 ITALY, 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 REMBRANDTS.

BUT EVERYONE YOU KNOW IS BUSY COMING AND GOING FROM ITALY, 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 SIGNIFICANT LOSS.

BUT IF YOU SPEND YOUR LIFE MOURNING 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

For Steps for Studying the Word

“My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my saying.”
Proverbs 4:20 KJV

Many people have asked me how to study God’s Word. Here are four helpful tips:

1. Purposely set aside time. I make an appointment with God in the mornings, but if that work for you, find a time that does, even if it’s not every day. Just start somewhere and you’ll see the positive fruit

that this time brings to your life!

2. make preparation for your Bible study. Choose a place that you enjoy being, a room in your house where you can be alone.

3. Have all your materials available. You’ll want your Bible, of course, but also get a good Bible dictionary, concordance, pen and paper. That way, you don’t have to stop every few minutes to reference something or write something down.

4. Prepare your heart. Talk to God

about things you may need to confess, and enter your study time peacefully and without anything that may block you from receiving revelation during your study.

Take the time to study the Word because there is power in it to change your life and become the person God wants you to be.

Prayer Starter: Lord, I purpose in my heart to set aside time to really study Your Word. Teach me how to understand, consent and submit to your truth in my life every day.

Waiting Expectantly

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find, and knock, and it shall be opened unto you:”
Matthew 7:7 KJV

Have you been praying about a situation in your life and found yourself waiting for a breakthrough? Are you wondering why the answer hasn’t come yet? Do you feel as though victory is passing you by?

Sometimes when we pray long and hard about a situation in our life without receiving any answers, we just learn to live with it. We go on about our business, wondering if or when God will send the answer. But God does hear those prayers, and He’s working out the answers even though we may not know all the details. Our situation can change suddenly, quickly, without warning!

Until then we can either wait passively or expectantly. A passive person gives up, but the expectant person, on the other

hand, is hopeful, believing the answer is just around the corner, due to arrive any minute. His belief is not a passive thing. His heart is full of hope, expecting his problem to be solved at any moment. He wakes up every morning expecting to find his answer. He may wait and wait, but he’ll keep asking until suddenly, God turns everything around.

Prayer Starter: I want to wait expectantly not passively. I’ll keep asking You for my breakthrough, knowing full well that You’ll bring it at the right time.

“God Causes Things to Happen at the Right Time”

“For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.” Habakkuk 2:3

Are you waiting for the desires of your heart to begin to manifest? Are you praying for bondages to fall off of you so you can see your dreams come to pass? Are you waiting and praying for the salvation of friends and family? Are you

trusting God for prosperity, favor, promotion, honor, and all the blessings found in His Word?

Are you tired of waiting for harvest time in your life? Are you frustrated, crying out, “When, God, when?” Then you need to understand that God’s timing is often a mystery. He doesn’t do things on our timetable. Yet His Word promises that He will not be late, not one single day.

God causes things to happen at exactly the right time! Your job is not to figure out when, but to make up your mind

that you won’t give up until you cross the finish line and are living in the radical, outrageous blessings of God! The more you trust Jesus and keep your eyes focused on Him, the more life you’ll have. Trusting God brings life. Believing brings rest. So stop trying to figure everything out, and let God be God in your life.

Prayer Starter: God, I know that Your timing is perfect, even when I grow tired of waiting. Help me to trust in You and rest in Your plan for me.

“Sharing in His Suffering”

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Romans 8:18

As Christians, we like the thought of sharing in Christ’s glory, but what about sharing in His suffering? Jesus took care of the death penalty once and for all so we don’t ever have to worry about that again. But the Bible teaches that we must suffer times of trial if we are to share in the glory. Is it worth it? According to Romans 8:18, it certainly is!

We tend to believe that we suffer because of our circumstances and if they would only change, we’d be able to act right. But God wants us to become so mature and stable that we act right even when none of our circumstances are good. There are different levels of faith, and most of time we want to use our faith to get rid of all suffering. But sometimes God’s plan is for us to exercise a higher level of faith that will carry us through life’s challenges.

Too often we marvel at the delivering power of God and overlook His keeping,

strengthening and enabling power. Jesus promised in John 16:33 that He will give us His peace during the trials of life and the power we need to overcome them. I encourage you today, if you are going through a time of suffering, take heart because in Christ, you will come through it and share in His glory which shall be revealed!

Prayer Starter: Lord, Paul said that present sufferings are nothing compared to the glory that comes from walking with You. I want to have that same attitude. I receive Your enabling power to walk through any suffering that comes my way.

Save the Date

CROSS STREET A.M.E. ZION CHURCH'S

CELEBRATE ME CULTURAL BAZAAR & BACK TO SCHOOL EXTRAVAGANZA

Saturday, August 24, 2019

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



CROSS STREET A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

440 West Street, Middletown, CT 06457

Phone: 860-344-9527

WWW.CROSSSTREETAMEZION.ORG

CELEBRATEMECULTURALBAZAAR@YAHOO.COM

Prayer Circle at 12:00 p.m.

*Come celebrate the rich and diverse culture
of our state while helping to restore
hope to our community.*



FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES & BOOKBAGS!

**THIS EVENT IS A CHANCE FOR OUR
COMMUNITIES TO COME TOGETHER AND
"SAVOR THE FLAVORS OF THE WORLD!"**

"A CHURCH WHERE EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY AND CHRIST IS LORD OF ALL"

PLAYING WITH JOY

READ: Galatians 5:22-26

The fruit of the Spirit is...joy.
Galatians 5:22

One of our sons, Brian, is a high school basketball coach. One year, as his team was dribbling its way through the Washington State Basketball Tournament, well-meaning folks around town asked, "Are you going to win it all this year?" Both players and coaches felt the pressure, so Brian adopted a motto: "Play with joy!"

I thought of the apostle Paul's last words to the elders of Ephesus: "That I may finish my race with joy" (Acts 20:24 NKJV). His aim was to complete the tasks Jesus had given him. I have made these words my motto and my prayer: "May I run and finish my race with joy." or as Brian says, "May I play with joy!" And by the way, Brian's team did win the state championship that year.

We all have good reasons to get grouchy: discouraging news, everyday stresses, health problems. Nevertheless, God can give us a joy that transcends these conditions if we ask Him. We can have what Jesus called, "my joy" (John 15:11).

Joy is a fruit of the Spirit of Jesus (Galatians 5:22). So we must remember each morning to ask Him to help us: "May I play with joy!" Author Richard Foster said, "To pray is to change. This is a great grace. How good of God to provide a path whereby our lives can be taken over by...joy." David H. Roper

**What causes you to be discouraged?
Where do you find your joy?**

I turn my eyes to you, God. I'm grateful I can count on Your faithfulness to me. Please bring me into Your joy.

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>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

<p>Monday, July 22 - Thursday, July 25 Vacation Bible School We are super excited for VBS2019!!! Please join in our excitement by attending this "Super Training University with Jesus" during the month of July! Also, we are looking for volunteers to help assist us with making this VBS the best yet! So, if interested, please see Gloria Malloy or Rev. Joyce Johnson to lend a helping hand! Thank you from the Sunday School Department.</p> <p>Friday, July 26 & Saturday, July 27 Hartford District Christian Education Convention Hosted at Varick Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church 242 Dixwell Avenue New Haven, Ct 06511</p> <p>Saturday, July 27 @ 10:00 am Missionary Mass Meeting & Prayer Breakfast Hosted at Varick Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church 242 Dixwell Avenue New Haven, Ct 06511</p>	<p>Wednesday, July 31 @6:00 pm Young Adults Fellowship Please see Sis. Melanie James for more information ***PLEASE NOTE*** Young Adults will meet THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH</p> <p>AUGUST</p> <p>Saturday, August 3 Please come out and join us for food, fellowship, & fun at the Cross Street A.M.E. Zion Church Annual Family & Friends Cookout @ Pierson Park in Cromwell, CT</p> <p>Saturday, August 10 @ 9:00 am Fill-The-Bus We will be in Washington Plaza in front of Big Lot @ 820 Washington Street, Middletown, CT Please come out and support our children and help us fill the Bus!!!</p> <p>Tuesday, August 16 @ 6:00 pm Church Organizational Meeting for 2019-2020 All ministers, officers, leaders, &</p>	<p>members to attend. Thank you so much for your prayers & participation!</p> <p>Saturday, August 24 @ 10:00 am Back-2-School & Cultural Bazaar</p> <p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>Saturday, September, 7 Tom Thumb Wedding More information to come</p> <p>Saturday, September 14 First Lady Eledia Harvill's Birthday</p> <p>Sunday, September 15 You Belong Here at The Cross National Back to Church Sunday</p> <p>Saturday, September 21 9th Annual Women's Health Conference Stay tuned for more information</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



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



2020 VISON
The Year of Expected "Miracles"

"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 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!!!**