



SEPTEMBER 2021

CHRISTIAN CENTER

EQUIP ~ ENGAGE ~ EDIFY

*for the equipping of the saints
for the work of ministry,
for the edifying of the body of Christ
Ephesians 4:12*

John 14:1

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

1 Peter 5:7

casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

We have encouraging promises in God's word about His care for us. It's important for us to remember that God has everything under control, especially in the midst of turbulent times. It is also important to remember that we are simply pilgrims passing through this life on the way to the next; passing to a life that is far greater and eternal.

As I have mentioned before, this is a great opportunity for us as believers to shine brightly for the Lord. As we put our trust in Jesus, He truly does bring a peace that surpasses all understanding. That peace during challenging times becomes a testimony of what God can do in the life of a believer.

There are a lot of people who are fearful, both believers and unbelievers alike, of this pandemic, government control and mandates, and the list goes on. It is a great opportunity to share the greatness of our God with others. He's not only greater than these challenges we face today, but He has conquered the greatest challenge all of us face; death and judgment, because of our sin.

Jesus bore our judgment when He died upon the cross of Calvary. He paid a debt He didn't owe, because we owe a debt, we cannot pay. His death satisfies the righteous requirement of the law. When

we place our faith in Him, we are forgiven, and have passed, as the Bible says, from death to life.

***Romans 5:8 says,
But God demonstrates His
own love toward us, in that
while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.***



It is through God's love demonstrated at Calvary, that we can have the hope of eternal life, and experience abundant life right now.

So, when your heart becomes troubled, remember the words of Jesus, "You believe in God, believe also in Me." Put your faith in Jesus, cast your care upon Him, and experience His peace that surpasses all understanding, while living in the midst of a chaotic world.

God Bless You,

Pastor Steve

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 19, 5:30 pm

Movie Night

October 13th.

Small Groups Begin

October 18th.

Women's Bible Studies Begin

October 30th

Harvest Festival

WOMEN'S MONDAY EVENING HOME FELLOWSHIP

BY HELIA MCFALLS

***"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."
Ephesians 4:2 NIV***

Great News! The summer is behind us!! I have missed our time together. This year, once again, we can look forward to our new study with Elizabeth George, using her latest guide titled "Nurturing A Heart Of Humility."

She will take us on a journey of the four Gospels of the New Testament and the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus. The following is a small quote from her book of what we can expect to glean from our study: "As we look at the New Testament gospels and the story they tell, we begin to understand God's purposes as prophecies are indeed fulfilled, we will see God's masterpiece of the promised Messiah finished and unveiled! And we'll also see how a humble Jewish girl's life was masterfully painted onto the canvas of these New Testament accounts."

God cares for us. He is mighty. He calls us to humble ourselves under Him. Not because He is a controlling God that wants you to bow down to Him because you are nothing, but rather because He wants to exalt us and care for us. As we humble ourselves, that is when we truly worship Him. We trust Him with what is going on in our lives and believe that He is the provider instead of ourselves.

Let's dig deeper into this meaning and purpose of humility. Please come out starting on Monday, October 18th at 6:00pm for some quality God time with some of your sisters in Christ. Come and see what God does in your life! I look forward to enjoying this wonderful study with all of you ladies!

Love & Blessings,

Helia



LADIES' LUNCHEON SEPTEMBER 18, 2021



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BY MARIAN MELLOR

"Come to Me, all you 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."

Matthew 11:28-30

Do you ever feel like ministry (or even just "normal" life!) is hard? Laborious? I have definitely had moments when it felt that way to me. I recognize that when I feel that way, my heart is not in the best place. I'm probably very ME focused – I would rather read for pleasure than study for the upcoming Children's Church lesson (nothing wrong with reading for pleasure!); I don't want to leave the house to go do anything, I just want to stay home.

Matthew 11:28-30 is a great encouragement to me because it reminds me that when I'm feeling like life is laborious and I'm heavy laden, I need to get yoked correctly to Jesus - to sit more intentionally at His feet and to seek Him. What are HIS priorities for my life? What does HE want me to learn and to be able to share with the children in Children's Church? If I am feeling that life and ministry are laborious, I have likely taken on some things that I didn't ask Jesus about first, or I am simply out of sync and need to realign with Him.

I find that during the busiest times of family life and ministry, when I seem to be yoked pretty nicely to Jesus, even when hiccups occur, the delight of it all and the relative ease at which things take place is amazing and wonderful. I am so thankful that Jesus offers us the privilege of yoking up with Him in our day-to-day, moment-by-moment lives. The fruit of our labor is so much more plentiful when we are in step with Him!

Bless You,

Marian



BY PAUL PALASZEWSKI

Revelation 1:3 (NKJV) "Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near."



As the fall season swings into full gear and our body of men returns to full strength, we are pleased to be resuming our 7am Saturday morning breakfast and Bible study on a weekly basis beginning October 2nd. Our kitchen crew is gearing up to bring you a hearty morning meal and our teaching team is already preparing to help facilitate a time of rich Bible study. It is our prayer that you are also readying yourselves to bring your own unique and valuable insights and experiences to the round tables, honing each other as iron sharpens iron (Proverbs 27:17).

In these troubling times we must put our trust in the promises of Jesus Christ now more than ever, looking for the blessed hope of His glorious appearing (Titus 2:13), with full assurance that the ultimate victory over evil is in His hands. While opinions may differ as to the nearness of the end of the age, we can all agree that we are closer now than ever before. What better time then, to solidify our trust, hope, and assurance in the supremacy of Jesus Christ through a study of the Book of Revelation?

The word "Revelation" literally means an uncovering or an unveiling of something hidden. Come join us on an exciting adventure of discovery as we walk through this book verse by verse. Be prepared for some challenging discussions as we probe the deeper mysteries of God and His Kingdom. The ultimate message is clear, however. Jesus wins in the end. And as His people we share in that victory.

To further encourage you to join us on this journey our headline verse reminds us that this is the only book in the Bible that promises blessings to its readers. So be blessed! Come on out Saturday morning!

Paul



DINNER & MOVIE NIGHT
SEPTEMBER 19TH AT 5:30 P.M.



WOMEN'S MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

BY DEBIE DILLAHUNT

Good news! Our new season of Bible study will begin on October 18th! What a blessing it will be to gather together again to dwell on the richness of God's Word as we sing, pray, and enjoy sweet fellowship together!

If you haven't been involved in a Bible study, consider giving it a try. It's an excellent way to make lifelong friends while fostering a close relationship with the Lord. We have a wonderful time together as we meet each week to soak up the richness of the Scriptures. It's also a great opportunity to encourage one another in our walk with Jesus – and we all surely need to be encouraged, especially in these challenging times!

We will be studying Acts: "Relying on the Power of the Spirit," by Elizabeth George. I'm truly excited to dig into this powerful study as we share about the amazing beginning of the church after the ascension of Jesus! Did you know that the Bible speaks about YOU? Here is one example: ***"For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all those who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."* Acts 2:39.**

As believers, that's us! At the time Acts was written, Luke included new believers as well as those who would accept Jesus in the future – even those who were "afar off"! How wonderful that our Lord had us in mind as He gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to all believers!

I hope you will be able to join us as we discover the wonderful truths found in God's Word! We will meet on Monday mornings from 9:30-11:00 in the Fellowship Hall at church (and on Zoom!) We'll save a seat for you!

Love and Blessings,

Debie



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



MISSIONARIES TO CHOGORIA, KENYA

BY DEREK & LAUREN WEBBER

“... Deliver Us From Evil” Matthew 6:13 RSV

In the last line of the Lord's Prayer, we are instructed to cry out for deliverance from evil. It feels appropriate to meditate on this line of the Lord's Prayer when evil on a grand scale seems to be winning the battle that wages around us. In recent weeks, we have seen Muslim extremists take over an entire country and our own country retreat in the face of threat and terrorists begin a new wave of attacks. We have witnessed tragedy in the form of natural disasters like the earthquake in Haiti, fires on the West Coast, and Hurricane Ida. Furthermore, the Covid delta variant seems to be crushing many communities around the world. There is political strife, civil unrest, and division of every kind from within families, friends, churches, communities, and nations. The presence of the enemy feels heavy, real, and threatening.

So, what is our response to be when we are feeling crushed and pressed down from every side? I believe the first action we should take is lament. As we examine the broad story of God's people throughout Scripture, we see that the road of lament is the one that leads us back to the heart of God. If His heart breaks over the fallen nature of our world, then ours should also. The second action we should take is intercession. While lament allows us to bring our pain before the God of comfort, intercession goes further in bringing the pain of the world before Him. The third action we should take when confronted with evil is engaging in the battle. While lament and intercession are crucial parts of engaging in spiritual warfare, we cannot stop there. As disciples of Christ, we are called to go to the one suffering and bind their wounds. We are told that the kingdom of God is for the poor, the suffering, and the outcast, and that we are to invite our fellow beggars to the feast.

When He instructs us to cry out for deliverance from evil, He is extending an invitation to join Him in lament, intercession, and engaging in the battle. As we take up our cross and follow Him, we are reminded that our victory has already been won. Evil has already been defeated. We set our hope not on the promise of a vaccine, or the strength of our military, or the security of a border wall, or the safety of quarantine. Instead, we set our hope on the assurance that our deliverer is with us, and that He is mighty to save.

Derek & Lauren





MISSIONARIES TO BURUNDI, AFRICA

BY BOAZ & AFRICA NIYINYUMVA

Shalom,

We hope that you are doing well with your loved ones. Receive our warmest greetings and love. We are doing well and we are thankful to God for His protection. Bathia is growing fast and doing home school. Bofrica, our 9-month-old boy, is also doing very well. As the world battles Covid-19, we all had our own experience with this

pandemic in the same month, but with different symptoms. Thank you for your prayers.

We are very grateful for your contributions, as we were able to provide 130 Burundian children with school materials (copybooks, pens, uniforms, and school backpacks). This is an activity that will continue, and we are very grateful for continued support.

As I enrolled in an echocardiogram, the hospital got a donor who helped purchase a new ultrasound machine with capacity of doing echocardiograms. I have almost completed the course but already the skills that I have gained are helping and saving lives, such as this one:

A 7-year-old girl came to the hospital so critically ill that she required admittance to the high dependence unit. I performed a cardiac ultrasound and diagnosed left-sided heart failure secondary to severe Rheumatic Heart Disease and Dilated Cardiomyopathy. The ECG showed Supraventricular Tachycardia. Both conditions were managed, and the child was discharged home, stable, to wait for surgical management of her valvular disease.

Prayer Requests.

*We are planning to visit Burundi in January 2022, to see where we might be living and working once back home. Please pray for this trip ahead of time, for financial and technical preparations. This will also be a vacation since we have not had any for about 18 months.

*Pray for Africa as she starts a three-year online program this September. She is going to study community development so she can work with underprivileged families and empower them. It is her first time doing an official online university program and learning in English.

*Pray for the 130 children you helped to go back to school - that they can do well and be fruitful.

Boaz & Africa





MISSIONARIES TO NORWICH, ENGLAND

BY JOHN & SARAH BROWN

Whatever our opinion of the origins of or the handling of COVID 19, it is a pandemic. This literally means that it has affected 'all people' including the British people we are seeking to reach and disciple for Jesus. Like most churches, we have seen some losses and some gains from the pandemic. We lost people who decided to move closer to family or those who simply preferred another church's online presentation during lockdown. We have gained some people

who have been desperate to meet in-person (we were one of the few churches in our city to remain open whenever legally possible). More importantly, we have gained people for whom the pandemic was an eye-opener to the fragility of life and came to trust in Jesus who is the Resurrection and the life (John 11:25). Others have publicly declared their faith in our Life-giving Saviour through baptism. Through all of the grief and confusion and polarization and anxiety of these times, God is still working. We are not meant to know the times and season of Christ's return (Acts 1:7) but we do know Whom we have believed and we trust that He is able to keep us until His return (see 2 Timothy 1:12).

PRAYER POINTS

PRAISE GOD: for saving Liz & Karen (a mother & daughter); for the 4 young people who were baptized this summer; for the new, local people attending our 4pm service at the new building.

ASK GOD: to provide for our British citizenship (cost has increased by 30% since we obtained the funds to apply just before the pandemic); to help Sarah & I with all the changes of this season (children marrying and/or moving out, continuing our education, etc).

John & Sarah



SUMMER BAPTISM
