

The Messenger

N. Ft. Myers Church of the Nazarene

A loving, caring, serving community of believers in Jesus

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A Story of Remembrance

A train filled with Jewish prisoners arrived at one of the Nazi camps, and many Polish gentiles came out to watch the group as they were taken away. As the disoriented Jews were preparing to enter the camp, a Nazi officer in charge called out to the villagers standing nearby, "Anything these Jews leave behind you may take for yourselves, because for sure they will not be coming back to collect them!"

Two Polish women, standing nearby, saw a woman at the back of the group, wearing a large, heavy, expensive coat. Not waiting for someone else to take the coat, they ran to the Jewish woman and knocked her to the ground, grabbed her coat and ran away.

Moving out of sight of the others, they quickly laid the coat down on the ground to take whatever was hiding inside. Rummaging through the pockets, they discovered gold jewelry, silver candlesticks and other heirlooms. They were thrilled with their find, but as they lifted the coat, it still seemed heavier than it should. Looking further, they found a secret pocket, and hidden inside was a tiny baby girl!

Shocked at their discovery, one woman took pity and insisted to the other, "I don't have any children, and I'm too old to give birth now. You take the gold and silver and let me have the baby." The woman took her new "daughter" home to her delighted husband. They raised the Jewish girl as their own, and treated her well, but never told her about her history. The girl excelled in her studies and became a doctor, working as a pediatrician in a hospital in Poland.

When her "mother" died many years later, a visitor came to pay her respects. An old woman invited herself in and said to the daughter, "I want you to know that the woman that passed away last week was not your real mother ..." and she proceeded to tell her the whole story. She did not believe her at first, but the old woman insisted.

"When we found you, you were wearing a beautiful gold pendant with strange writing on it, which must be Hebrew. I am sure that your mother kept the necklace. Go and see for yourself." Indeed, the woman went into her deceased mother's jewelry box and found the necklace just as the elderly lady had described. She was shocked. It was hard to fathom that she had been of Jewish descent, but the proof was right there in her hand. As this was her only link to a previous life, she cherished the necklace. She had it enlarged to fit her neck and wore it every day, although she thought nothing more of her Jewish roots.

Sometime later, she went on holiday abroad and came across two Jewish boys standing on a main street, trying to interest Jewish passersby to wrap Tefillin on their arms (for males) or accept Shabbos candles to light on Friday afternoon (for females). Seizing the opportunity, she told them her entire story and showed them the necklace. The boys confirmed that a Jewish name was inscribed on the necklace but did not know about her status. They recommended that she write a letter to their mentor, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, explaining everything. If anyone would know what to do, it would be him.

She took their advice and sent off a letter that very day. She received a speedy reply saying that it was clear from the facts that she was a Jewish girl and perhaps she would consider using her medical skills in Israel where talented pediatricians were needed. Her curiosity was piqued and she traveled to Israel where she consulted a Rabbinical Court, who declared her Jewish. Soon she was accepted into a hospital to work, and eventually met her husband and raised a family.

In August 2001, a terrorist blew up the Sbarro cafe in the center of Jerusalem. The injured were rushed to the hospital where this woman worked. One patient was brought in, an elderly man in a state of shock. He was searching everywhere for his granddaughter who had become separated from him.

Asking how she could recognize her, the frantic grandfather gave a description of a gold necklace that she was wearing. Eventually, they finally found her among the injured patients.

At the sight of this necklace, the pediatrician froze. She turned to the old man and said, "Where did you buy this necklace?"

"You can't buy such a necklace," he responded, "I am a goldsmith and I made this necklace. Actually, I made two identical pieces for each of my daughters. This is my granddaughter from one of them, and my other daughter did not survive the war."

And this is the story of how a Jewish girl, brutally torn away from her mother on a Nazi camp platform almost seventy years ago, was reunited with her father

Adapted from the book "Heroes of Faith" (See back page)



Pumpkin Patch 2020

Monday, October 5 –
Saturday, October 31
9:00 A.M. to Sundown

Please sign up in the foyer.
We will need everyone's help
in order to make this outreach
a success.



The COVID-19 global pandemic has disrupted everyday life for millions of people around the world. Yet, Samaritan's Purse continues to share the eternal hope of the Gospel and to serve in Jesus' Name.

Will you partner with us to share that glorious hope with boys and girls around the world—many of whom have never heard the Name of Jesus?

We're looking forward to a great Operation Christmas Child season as we prayerfully consider ways to modify our collection and processing in light of COVID-19. We are already monitoring local, state, and national guidelines and making adjustments to help protect the health of those involved in preparing shoebox gifts.

We are grateful you plan to join us this year in packing traditional boxes, building a shoebox online, or both. Check out creative ideas from Operation Christmas Child Project Leaders across the U.S. who are making modifications to shoebox packing in order to ensure that children around the world are still blessed with great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ. National Collection Week is Nov. 16–23, 2020.

If you would like to build a shoebox online, go to: https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/?utm_source=buildonline&utm_medium=direct&ver=1.2

We will have wrapped shoeboxes in the foyer. Simply pick up a box and a packing slip which shows the gender and age of the child for whom you will be filling the box, and turn the filled box and slip into the church before Nov. 15. For some creative ways to pack the boxes, go to: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/article/five-creative-ways-to-pack-shoeboxes-during-covid-19/> **If you have any questions about this very important outreach, please contact Phoebe Barr.**



We have already begun gathering items from our Wal-Mart donations and putting together boxes for distribution to needy families this Christmas. If you know of a family in need – especially if those families will struggle to provide gifts for their children this year – please contact Kari Bergman with the name of the family. If you can also provide the names of the children and their ages and clothing sizes, that would be very helpful. We would like to reach out to as many families as possible. If you would like to donate to this very special project, simply mark your gift "Christmas Outreach" and place it in the offering.

October Calendar

- 3 – Pumpkins Arrive
- 5-31 – Pumpkin Patch
- 8 – Ladies Craft Night
- 13 – Church Board Meeting
- 31 – Trunk or Treat



October Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4 – Jim & Susan Corle
- 6 – Susan Corle
- 8 – Laurel Chapman
- 11 – Jamie & Susie Lorenson
- 18 – Janet Van Skiver
- 20 – Elmer & Sue Jones
- 22 – Lori Fillmore
Dave Fregeau
- 26 – John & Marie Haddad
Arnold Burris
- 27 – Ernie Rybolt



Prayer Needs:

Phoebe Barr	Ben Bergman	Ronnie Kiser	John Davis
Doug Keuther	Patrick Lindsey	Tom Humm	Helen Thom
June Carsey	Rich Harris	Amanda Blackburn	Anna Marie Anderson
Eloise Garner	Elis Lodge	Pastor Tim Taylor	Pastor Jim Spear
Laurel Chapman	Eileen Massett	Mark & Lisa Koch	Ernie Rybolt
Betty Coolie	Paul Jones	Tom Blakeman	Amy Logsdon
Ray & Janelle Owens	Dorothy Chapman	Paul & Grace Boling	Joseph Groves
Lorraine Jungles	Shelby Pickett	Libby & Craig Smith	Dave Peck
Mark & Kim Barr	Louis Perez	The Monroe Family	Rev. Dan Copp
Kenny & Gail Goodman	Dominic Tannoia	Regina Williams	Rev. Greg Story, D.S.
Children & Teen Depts.	Eileen Jennings	Kitty Baxter	Our District Family
A Youth Pastor & Worship Leader	Unsaved Loved Ones	Those affected negatively by the Corona Virus	



Thursday, Oct. 8, 6:30 P.M.

Gather your materials and come ready to create together.

We are still collecting Crisis Care Kits, not only for distribution through our denomination, but we also keep these kits on hand at the church to help anyone who may cross our path in need. The list for the items to be gathered for the kit is on the communion table at the front of the sanctuary.

Join us for our Wednesday night devotional at 6:00 P.M. on Facebook live-streaming.

Arnold Burris will continue to offer a Bible study at 6 P.M. Mondays and Pastor Becky will continue to bring a Bible study at 7 P.M. on Thursdays on their personal FB pages.

If you cannot tune in at those times, you may watch the recorded Bible studies later.

Facebook Page: North Fort Myers Church of the Nazarene **Website:** nfmnazarene.com



**The pumpkins arrive Saturday, Oct. 3
9:00 A.M.**

**We will need all the help we can get.
If you have a pickup truck, we can
also really use your truck.**

Remembering with Purposeful Hearts

The story on the front cover of this month's *Messenger* was chosen for the specific purpose of helping to remind us all of the importance of remembering. As we stand just over one month from one of the most important, if not the most important, elections in the history of America, perhaps the wisest choice we can make is to purposefully remember the history that brought us to this point and the purposefulness that should define who we are as citizens of this country.

So many would have us think that because our history contains events of injustice and immoral choices that destroying the links to those moments in history is the answer to the social challenges we currently face. However, it is a mistake to believe that the present is somehow more relevant than the past. The idea that considering the past as we move into the future is somehow taking a "step backward," is not accurate. As believers, we are deeply aware that the future informs the past and the past informs the future and everything in between. For instance, the early chapters of the Bible cannot be fully comprehended without the final chapters of Revelation. The entire Bible forms a cohesive picture that cannot be fully understood unless taken within its full context.

Much of our faith is built, brick-by-brick, by GOD's faithfulness to us in our past. The importance of placing our trust in the Lord alone for even our most basic human needs is seen when Jesus, during a 40-day fast, quotes Deuteronomy 8:3 when tempted by Satan to command the stones to turn into bread (Matt. 4; Luke 4). The trials that the Israelites faced were intended to teach them to depend upon the Lord and to trust Him through every trial, knowing that the Lord disciplines those He loves as a father disciplines his son (Deut. 8:5; Heb. 12:7-11).

Deuteronomy 8:11-20 reminds us of the dangers of forgetting our GOD in good times and in bad. The difficulties the Israelites faced while learning to trust the Lord through their many trials were, in part, meant to encourage them to remember the Lord and what He had done for them throughout their history with Him. The danger was that the Israelites might look around, see their prosperity, and think they had accomplished all of this by their own abilities. It is not merely in the face of trials that the call to remember is relevant—there is a real danger of forgetting when we experience success as well.

Among the sins related to forgetting GOD, idolatry is one that is particularly highlighted. Such idolatry leads only to the downfall of a nation. Is it possible that the destruction of our past, even when it is a reminder of national sins, will only lead to forgetting the lessons we should have learned through those sins, and the dependence we have upon our Creator to be constantly reminded to transform our thinking in order to follow Him more closely? Even when looking into the very face of evil – like the evil that was perpetrated against the Jews by the Nazis – we learn not only to recognize evil, but the events and choices that allow evil to reign; and thereby recognizing it, we know the paths we must take to avoid committing the same acts.

The illustration on the front page of this newsletter should help remind us that even when evil is allowed to have its way for a time, our GOD is still in control, and will bring justice in the end. The removal of historical reminders of a nation's past, however, does not ensure that those mistakes will not recur. It only ensures that there will come a day when the citizens who need to remember those mistakes so they will not be repeated, will have nothing to stand as a reminder of what to avoid or how far our nation has come.

A painful past should not and does not have to mean future failure. A past filled with pain can and should mean scars that will stand as reminders of that through which GOD has brought us to this point. Please take the time between now and the election to ask the Lord to help us remember ALL the lessons we should be learning from the failures of our past. May we learn to look for GOD in all of those failures and determine that our past will push us forward toward becoming the people we were meant to be – not who we once were, not who we may be today, but who we should be as we reflect Him.



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