

# The Messenger

N. Ft. Myers Church of the Nazarene

*A loving, caring, serving community of believers in Jesus*

July 2020 ~ Volume 11, Issue 3

## The “As Is” Section

Don't we all love it when we find a great bargain? Whether we find it a yard sale, thrift store, or the clearance rack at our favorite department store, everyone like's a great deal. But what happens when we get our bargain home and find out our great deal wasn't that great after all; when we take it home, only to find an “as is” tag that we didn't notice before? We usually smack our heads with our palms and simply groan. What else can we do?

These “deals” often have words printed somewhere like, “*slightly irregular*” or “*seconds*.” However they are labeled, it means the same thing - damaged goods. The hope is that any item that is damaged is labeled as such. It offers a warning to the consumer that the item is sold “as is,” There's a flaw, a stain that won't come out, a hole, a zipper that won't zip, or a seam that's not straight. It's as if the seller is saying, “This item has a problem, and we're not going to tell you where that problem is. You probably won't find it until you get home, but when you find it, don't come back looking to blame us - No returns, No refunds, and No exchanges.”

All we need to do is interact with another human being, and we will notice our earth is the “as is” section of the universe. Everyone with whom we come into contact is slightly irregular. All of us have flaws, imperfections, and damage. We all want to be “flawless,” but the writers of the Scriptures insist that none of us is. “*There is none righteous, not even one!*” (Romans 3:10) Jesus knew this truth. He knew how flawed we are. Yet, he came to this “as is” earth anyway. He came for us.

John 2:24 says this about our Savior, “*He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.*” The question for us is, why would we expect flawlessness and perfection in our fellow man and woman when we've been warned ahead of time that we're living in an “as is” world? Maybe it's time to start cutting the human race some “slack,” knowing we're all wearing the same label – *irregular*. Let Jesus work on the irregularities, and just love and accept one another in the Spirit of the Lord. Pastor Becky

**Having been extended the grace of GOD in an “irregular” world, let us ask ourselves:**

**Have I –**

- allowed my past failures to hold me back?
- been open to sharing my failings with others that they might help me grow past them?
- responded with gentleness in helping others with their failures?
- allowed those who love me to point out my shortcomings and received their input graciously?
- experienced GOD's restorative grace in my life and shared His work in my life with others?



As we learn to walk  
in the *power*  
of God's grace,  
we begin to  
effortlessly  
reflect its  
*beauty*  
to those  
around us.

## July Birthdays & Anniversaries

10 – Bill & Judi Predko  
 11 – Dave Parker  
 13 – Lucille Logan  
 16 – Alice Daughtery  
     Gail Wills  
 17 – Bud & Phoebe Barr  
     Rich Ballentine  
 20 – Angus Fizer  
 21 – Joyce Jones (CJ)  
 22 – Harry & Susi Friedman  
 24 – Betty Farmer  
     Richard Loubier  
 28 – Dan Bowker



## July Calendar

4 – Independence Day  
 16 – Church Board Meeting  
 18 – Blood Mobile

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. Tuesdays 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

## Prayer Needs:

Ida Chaplow	Dominic Tannoia	Amanda Blackburn	Lynn Kent
Doug Keuther	Patrick Lindsey	Betty Coolie	Ben Bergman
June Carsey	Rich Harris	Libby Smith	Anna Marie Anderson
Phoebe Barr	Elis Lodge	Pastor Tim Taylor	Pastor Jim Spear
Laurel Chapman	Judi Predko's family	Eileen Massett	Mark & Lisa Koch
Ernie Rybold	Paul Jones	Betty Predko	Tom Blakeman
Sheryl Colie & Family	Tim Dillehay	Dorothy Chapman	Paul & Grace Boling
Ardyth Eldridge	Marlene Ryan	Joseph Groves	Lorraine Jungles
Mark & Kim Barr	Louis Perez	The Monroe Family	Dave Peck
Kenny & Gail Goodman	Phyllis Obney	Regina Williams	Alice Daughtery
Children & Teen Depts.	Eileen Jennings	Kitty Baxter	Our District Family
A Youth Pastor	Unsaved Loved Ones	Those affected negatively by the Corona Virus	

## VBS 2020 Cancelled

It has been decided that in light of the issues surrounding COVID 19, and the desire for church leaders to assure the safety of our people and any children who might attend – there will be no Vacation Bible School this summer. It is sad to have to take this step, but we hope you understand.



**Blood Mobile is Back**  
**Saturday, July 18**  
**11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**TIME TO ASSEMBLE SCHOOL PAL PAKS.** Even though we are not certain of the 2020 school year, children will still be in school in some way and will need supplies. We want to help with that need, so it's time to gather NEW items in quantities listed below. Assemble Paks EXACTLY as described. Include ONLY those items listed on the inventory. Pack contents into a 1 gallon zip-loc bag and turn into the church office by August 26:

\*\* 2 composition notebooks, no larger than 9"x 7" \*\* 1 package of 10-12 #2 pencils \*\* 1 package of 10-12 black pens \*\* 2 pink erasers, 2-3" long \*\* 2 - 6" or 12" rulers (with metric) \*\* 1 package of 12-15 colored pencils \*\* 1 pair of blunt-nosed scissors \*\* 1 hand-held pencil sharpener \*\*

## **STATEMENT ON THE 30<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY BOARD OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

The world has been impacted by an unexpected pandemic that has affected every area of life, including the health, safety, finances, and mobility of the global church. As a result, the Board of General Superintendents (BGS) called for several entities to review plans for the upcoming 30th General Assembly and Conventions, scheduled for June 23 -July 2, 2021, in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. This review has considered the purpose of the General Assembly, the options available to achieve the purpose, and the implications of convening the General Assembly on the scheduled dates.

### **CURRENT CONSIDERATIONS**

The COVID-19 pandemic has touched the global church in many ways. As the virus spreads around the world

- Global travel has either been restricted or deemed unsafe
- Embassies and consulates have closed, and the dates for reopening remain uncertain.
- Access to visas to travel to the United States and through transit points have been delayed.
- Financial challenges at the local church level have impacted the districts' ability to budget for the upcoming General Assembly.

As the BGS has consulted with a variety of professional and ecclesial advisors, most agree that the current conditions will continue for an extended period of time, recognizing it is difficult to forecast when the pandemic's impact will slow. Based on these considerations and realities, the BGS has determined that the current conditions do not allow the denomination to fulfill the purposes for which the General Assembly has been designed. The health risks, restricted mobility, and lack of financial resources all combine to create limitations for a truly global representation to attend the General Assembly as scheduled in 2021.

In harmony with the provision in Manual 302.1, the BGS met with the Executive Committee of the General Board to review the possibility of holding an electronic, remote General Assembly in simultaneous locations around the world. At the 10 June 2020 meeting of the Executive Committee of the General Board, it was unanimously decided "a multi-site electronic assembly would not allow us to fulfill the essential purposes of the General Assembly as stated in the Manual." Based on these realities, the Executive Committee of the General Board, acting on behalf of the General Board, unanimously recommended that the General Assembly Commission "consider postponing the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to a time when the conditions may guarantee the safe participation of a large global contingent."

### **DECLARATION**

After studying the current impact of COVID-19 globally, including the likelihood of conditions being appropriate for scheduling the 30th General Assembly in a way that includes both significant global participation via attendance and an appropriate emphasis on the health and safety of visitors and delegates, the General Assembly Commission, acting with the authority vested by Manual paragraph 302, has taken the following action:

1. To declare a state of emergency that prevents the implementation of the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly as scheduled in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, in 2021.
2. To postpone the meeting of the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to 2023 given the fact that there is no assurance of global mobility and global economic recovery for at least two years.
3. To work as a General Assembly Commission on determining the actual dates and location for the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2023 as sites become available.

### **A WORD FROM THE BOARD OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS**

This has been a very difficult yet crucial decision. When we began meeting with various constituencies to review the realities brought upon us by this global crisis, we soon realized that there were no ideal options for us. We firmly believe that it is essential for the global family to gather together, not only to fulfill our constitutional mandate to formulate doctrine and polity but especially to reflect the richness of our unity expressed by the beautiful diversity of our global family. And yet, we take seriously the necessity to protect those attending, as well as the representative nature of our denomination by ensuring that everyone will be given equal opportunity to attend a gathering of this magnitude. This has been a complicated decision. While we would have loved to postpone the assembly for only one year, we could not gain assurance of higher participation from our brothers and sisters from those global communities that have been affected by the pandemic due to either limited healthcare, financial means, or the capacity to travel. Though we are grieved by the extended postponement, we support the decision of the General Assembly Commission to allow for adequate time to safeguard lives and save financial resources. Let us continue praying for the Lord to guide and keep the church and to provide what is needed for all of us to gather together soon, at the appointed time. These are unprecedented times, but any uncertainty regarding the future is fortified by the promise:

*"Blessed are those whose strength is in the LORD, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage ... They go from strength to strength till each appears before God in Zion"* (Psalm 84:5, 7)

*Board of General Superintendents*

## John 1:9-14

*There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John \*testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.*

How do you know who God is? Many people today have arrived at their own perception of Him, based on their personal ideas, reasoning, and desires. And some don't want anyone interfering with their preconceived notions of God. This is nothing new—it was true in the first century, just as it is today.

Jesus came to His own people, the Jews. But despite the testimony of John the Baptist—that Christ was someone who surpassed him in rank and existed long before arriving on earth—they did not want Him. Our Savior came to die in order to save those who would believe in Him, but He also came to explain the Father. Jesus has both the knowledge and the authority to do this, because He is God the Son and the only one who has seen and fully knows God the Father.

We live in an area where the world says, "truth is relative". "As long as one believes in a higher power then we will be okay and make it into heaven." No one wants the truth that calls for inner change or that causes one to feel guilty about how their life is lived. We are a god unto ourselves. We do not want to know who or what God truly is.

Therefore, if you want to know and understand who God is, look at Jesus—not just in the Gospel accounts of His earthly life but in the entire New Testament. This is the best way to make sure that you are not deceived in your understanding of Him. Might I suggest starting with reading the first chapter of John? Being confronted with the truth now is much better than discovering too late that you are following the wrong god.

Blessings and be safe, Pastor Van

(A large portion of this month's devotion was taken from In Touch ministries.)



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