

The Messenger

N. Ft. Myers Church of the Nazarene

A loving, caring, serving community of believers in Jesus

August 2020 ~ Volume 11, Issue 4

Into the Unknown

I am not often a person of few words. However, the older I get, the more I appreciate people who come straight to the point, books that don't keep you hanging on, and stories that offer enough information as they progress, so I don't have to plod my way through them before getting to the "good part."

Toward that end, the first verse in Hebrews 11 fulfills a great need for me. It provides a succinct and precise definition for faith and provides us something in which to have faith. *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*

Then, Hebrews 11 gives us great examples of what faith in action looks like. Tucked into that Chapter is a short phrase that captures Moses' approach to life as it pertains to faith: "for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen" (v. 27). There was no shortage of uncertainty in Moses' life. How could someone "slow of speech" talk to Pharaoh? How could a murderer become God's chosen man? How could anyone lead the stiff-necked Israelites? And how would they cross the Red Sea, conquer Canaan, and survive 40 years in the desert?

Moses knew what the Lord expected of him, but he could not see into the future. So, he could not foresee the outcome of his obedience. Moses, instead, moved into the future – **by faith**—trusting in GOD for what he would need. He got his security for the future solely from GOD, who consistently and faithfully keeps His promises.

Life has not gotten more certain in the hundreds of years since Moses led the Israelites to the Promised Land. Believers today face a whole lot of unknowns too. Thankfully, our source of security in the face of the unknown also has not changed in all those years. **GOD is still the only certainty in this life.** Our hope is in the One who is faithful, just, and loving (2 Timothy 2:13; Psalm 89:14; Eph. 2:4).

Faith for us is to cling steadfastly to the Lord. No matter how hopeless things seem, GOD always goes before us. So, go ahead and move forward into the unknown. GOD's already there and our confidence in Him is never misplaced.

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."

- Corrie ten Boom -



Busy Hands

Meeting every Tuesday from 9:30 to 12:00 noon.

Currently meeting in the fellowship hall – but will either take off for the election on August 18, or will simply meet in the Children's Sunday school classroom – to be decided.

Currently, Busy Hands will be working on tote bags and lap quilts for veterans.

Even if you do not see, you can always be of help. And the ladies always have a terrific time.

If you have not seen the beautiful quilts they made for the Native American Christian Academy, be sure and check them out on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the office.

A Prayer as we Return to School

Lord,

We have prayed for Your wisdom and direction for those in authority that the right decision would be made with regards to sending our children to school in the midst of the Coronavirus outbreak. The decision has been made for the children to return to school on August 31, so we now turn to You for the help that is so desperately needed.

First, we acknowledge You as Almighty GOD, our Maker and Defender, Protector and Shield, Wisdom and Guide.

Next, we cry out to You for Your mighty Hand of protection and defense to surround our children, teachers, administrators, schools, and classrooms. Will you please watch over each child with a special eye to their health, wellbeing, and protection? We know each one has been specially gifted for this world and for the influence they are to have on it. Will you please open the eyes of their teachers to be able to see their uniqueness and the blessings they bring to this world? Please fill each student and each teacher with a renewed and fresh enthusiasm for learning after such a long time away from the classroom. Cover each one and surround them with Your incredible, enduring love and grace, and enable them to reach new and unexpected heights of achievement and growth as people of character and integrity.

Help each child and each teacher to persevere through whatever trials may come their way. Let there be a spirit of obedience within each child, and a spirit of understanding and compassion within each teacher, and may each school be so filled with the Holy Presence of GOD Almighty that a hunger would be born in the heart of every unbeliever and a renewed hunger in the heart of those who believe in Jesus as Savior. Please place a spirit of servanthood and excellence within the heart of each teacher, that they would find joy and delight in their profession, and that they would serve in the classroom as a united front, seeking the one goal of glorifying Christ through excellence in training, teaching, guiding and discipline.

We humbly ask that you enter into each and every household where one of these precious one's lives. Through the power of the blood of Jesus, and by the word of our testimony, would you systematically remove the evil influences in each home? Please open the eyes of each and every person raising a child in this day, and bring a spirit of understanding to each one, that they would fully grasp the enormous responsibility they carry to raise responsible, loving, gentle, honest, principled, moral, ethical, kind people. Please send a spirit of Godliness into each home, school and classroom, that we would see a genuine and renewed fervor for serving You within each place.

We pray for a spirit of wisdom and supernatural understanding for each principal and administrator of each and every school. We ask the same for each and every school board member.

Please help our children to withstand peer pressure and those that would attempt to influence them toward evil. Give them the strength and wisdom to make wise decisions that will be pleasing to You. Surround them with positive influences and role models and help them to strive to be the same. Father, please keep our children innocent of those evil and corrupting influences that would introduce them to drugs, illicit materials, sex, or any other demonic or corrupting content.

Lord, please introduce a spirit of Christlike unity and peace into our children's lives. May they hunger for it, become purveyors of it and may they strive to be people who live with a desire to see it manifest itself in others. Please remove the influence of the enemy over our schools and our children, weed out and remove those who would have evil or insidious motives, and infiltrate our places of education with the Spirit of GOD and the influence of GOD. Please take away the spirits of fear and suspicion, anxiety and dread, and may we see a renewed sense of hope and enthusiasm for learning and discipline take their place.

We trust you fully, Lord, to hear and answer our prayers and to be the Ruler of this world within the schools of our land. So, we make all these requests in the Holy and Righteous Name of our Lord, and Your Son, Jesus.

We encourage you to print this out or cut it out and put it in a place where you can pray it regularly.

August Calendar

- 9 – Back to School Sunday
- 13 – Church Board Meeting
- 18 – Primary Election
- 31 – First Day Back to School Lee County

August

He's got
the whole
world in
His hands



August Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 – Bettie Coolie
- 17 – Doug & Karen Haiflich
- 20 – Susie Lorenson
- 21 – Ronnie Kiser
- 24 – Janet Heath
- 27 – Pat Abrams
- 30 – Jerry & Martha Pickett
- 31 – Sam Kuster

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 **Website:** nfmnazarene.com



Prayer Needs:

Phoebe Barr	Dominic Tannoia	John Davis	Chaplow Family
Doug Keuther	Patrick Lindsey	Betty Coolie	Ben Bergman
June Carsey	Rich Harris	Amanda Blackburn	Anna Marie Anderson
Libby & Craig Smith	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
Lynn Kent	Marlene Ryan	Joseph Groves	Lorraine Jungles
Mark & Kim Barr	Louis Perez	The Monroe Family	Dave Peck
Kenny & Gail Goodman	Phyllis Obney	Regina Williams	Allice Daugherty
Children & Teen Depts.	Eileen Jennings	Kitty Baxter	Our District Family
A Youth Pastor	Unsaved Loved Ones	Those affected negatively by the Corona Virus	

SCHOOL PAL PAKS – Although we are not holding a VBS in 2020, we still want to help children returning to school with supplies. We are excited to be joining forces with Hogbody's Restaurant in distributing the Paks, so we will still be able to reach our community in the Name of Jesus. If you would like to help, please place the listed supplies in a 1-gallon zip-loc bag and turn them into the church office by August 23. If you would rather help by donating the cost of the supplies, each pak costs approximately \$15. Just mark the funds "Pal Paks" and place the donation in one of the provided buckets on Sunday morning, or send the money to the church. Thank you for your help in this wonderful outreach.

**** 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 ****

When leaning on Jesus is enough

The church in Corinth in the Bible was filled with problems. The simple act of communion had been perverted into a feast for the rich to gorge themselves in front of those who were poor and had no food. The spiritual gift of speaking in unknown languages had been invaded and misused by those who had come out of pagan temples where “spirits” would speak through people in unintelligible utterances. An incestuous sexual relationship between a man and his stepmother was not only being tolerated but was being bragged about in the church. There were factions and infighting among the people. There were bedlam and confusion and people shouting their “prophecies” over the top of one another in their gatherings. And in the middle of all of that what did Paul do? What does he say he did?

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (NASB) **Paul’s Reliance upon the Spirit**

And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

When Paul came to the city of Corinth, He came “in weakness and in fear and in much trembling.” But his concern was for the people’s salvation—not for himself. He didn’t try to manipulate the Corinthians into receiving Christ as Savior, nor did he try to impress them with his knowledge and wisdom. He came in humility, fully relying on the Holy Spirit’s power to save lost souls. *For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified*

When we step out and witness to those around us, we are called to only lean on Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit in what we do and say. How could Jesus be anything less than enough? What if every day, we recognized that all we had was Jesus? What if when we came into the sanctuary, we didn’t discuss our health or our jobs or the weather or our families but only Jesus? What if there was no piano and no keyboard and no guitar and no drums or any other musical instruments or singing but only Jesus? What if there was no projection of the words and no hymnals and no bulletins but only our Bibles and Jesus? What if during the offering time we just sat in silence and thought about Jesus and His kingdom? What if instead of music there were only testimonies of praise about what Jesus had done in and through us that week for Him and for His Kingdom on earth? What if instead of music there were only testimonies of how we had grown in the Lord and testimonies about what we had learned from the Bible? What if instead of a prayer chorus before the prayer time, we confessed the ways we had failed Jesus that week and sought the prayers of brothers and sisters in Christ for strength in the coming week? What if we spent an extended time in reading the Scriptures to find out how we could be more like Jesus? What if the sermon always focused on what Jesus wants us to become and what Jesus wants to do in and through us? What if we spent an extended time in prayer asking Jesus to help us to be what He wants us to be and to help us to do what He would have us to do?

Would we be satisfied with such a service? Would Jesus be enough?

It is easy to get caught up in the trappings of the modern-day church. All too often we change churches because we have made church more about us and our comfort and less about our worship of God and gaining knowledge about Jesus. Take this time to check yourself. Make sure your focus is on *Jesus Christ, and Him crucified*. When it is, your impact on your world will be a tremendous blessing to you and for everyone around you.

Love and Prayers, Pastor Van



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