



North Fort Myers Church of the Nazarene Messenger

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Prayer, Prayer, Prayer

This week, Van and I were privileged to join another couple in attending the new film, "Breakthrough," the true story of a teenaged boy who falls through the ice into a river and drowns. **Spoiler alert** – as a direct result of prayer and GOD's hearing and answering those prayers – the boy lives today and is seeking a life devoted to ministry.

Rather than wait for you to see the movie and have your confidence in the power of prayer renewed, I want to focus this article on doing that. First, by reminding you of a couple of instances of the power of GOD that is released through prayers; and second, by giving you the opportunity to see that power released through you into your family, your neighborhood, and our church.

In the summer of 1876, grasshoppers nearly destroyed every crop in the State of Minnesota. In the spring of 1877, the farmers became worried, believing the terrible plague from the year before would be unleashed once again, and this time, it would most likely bring ruin to thousands of farmers.

The situation was so serious that Governor John Pillsbury proclaimed April 26 as a day of prayer and fasting. He urged every man, woman and child to ask GOD to prevent the terrible scourge that seemed to loom on their horizon. On that day, all schools, shops, stores, and offices were closed. There seemed to be a quiet, reverent hush over the entire state.

The next day was unusually bright, clear and warm. It was almost as though summer had invaded the middle of April. The citizens of Minnesota were devastated as they discovered billions of grasshopper larvae wiggling to life all over the ground, all across the state. For three days the unusual heat persisted and the larvae hatched. The citizens knew it would not be long before the grasshoppers would begin feeding on and destroying the wheat crop. However, on the fourth day, the temperature suddenly dropped, and that night frost covered the earth. It killed every one of those hatchlings, and the citizens of that state knew their prayers had been heard and a miracle had been granted.

When David Newkirk, now a youth pastor at Church of the Open Door in Glendora, California, woke up in the middle of the night, he was still exhausted from a college basketball victory the day before.

He related, "Twenty minutes after my head hit the pillow, I was catapulted out of the deepest sleep," along with his mother and sister, he was jerked awake to pray for his brother Dan. Dan was living in Israel, but had begun to run out of money. So, he had chosen to sleep on a park bench for the night. In the wee hours of the morning, a snarling dog woke him up, battling with a chicken under the bench. Unable to break up the animals, Dan found another bench and resumed his rest. The next morning, a bomb exploded right next to the first bench, hurtling it through the air, leaving "a mess of tangled metal and concrete."

These are two reminders that our GOD is still in the business of hearing our prayers and intervening on His children's behalf, by His mighty power.

Matthew 7:7: Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Matthew 7:11: If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!

John 14:13: Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 16:23: Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you.

What is the greatest need of your heart today? What is the greatest need within your family, your neighborhood and your church today? Are you letting anything stand in the way of you asking your Heavenly Father for it? Has the enemy of your soul done something to steal or alter your belief in GOD's ability to do even the seemingly most impossible thing within these areas? Then pray! Pray without stopping! Pray without doubting! Pray for the impossible to become possible! He's waiting to hear from you about it all! Becky

Birthdays & Anniversaries

04 – Louise Asbury
 05 – Michael & Linda Romano
 07 – Melanie Kelly
 08 – Lee Monroe
 10 – Judi Predko
 15 – Cloie Hall
 Russell Hall
 16 – Libby Smith
 17 – Carl & Lucille Logan
 20 – Julia Moore
 22 – Bud Barr
 26 – Sue Vance-Jones
 30 – John Haddad

MAY



Calendar

5 – Missionary, Matt Miller
 in AM Service
 8 – Food Distribution
 9 – Board Meeting
 11 – Mother’s Day Luncheon
 12 – Mother’s Day
 No PM Service
 14 & 28 – Busy Hands
 27 – Memorial Day



Prayer Needs:

Van Skiver Family	Phoebe Barr	Dave Peck	Vandelinde Family
Rose Family	Ernie Rybold	Dave Fregeau	Dorothy & Laurel Chapman
Ryan Woodby	Ida Chaplow	Betty Predko	Shery Colie & Family
Paul & Grace Boling	Matthew Morgan	Ardyth Eldridge	Orion Predko
Patrick Lindsey	Eileen Massett	Joseph Groves	Mark & Kim Barr
Louis Perez	Cody Church	Betty Retter	Kenny & Gail Goodman
Children & Teen Depts.	Regina Williams	Alice Daugherty	Phyllis Obney
Eileen Jennings	Kitty Baxter	Nick Kiser	
Marlene Ryan	Our missionaries	A Youth Pastor	Unsaved Loved Ones
The Nation of Israel	Our Church Leaders	House of James Ministries	
Our military, our leaders & our nation			



Harry Chapin Food Bank
 OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

We need volunteers to help with the distribution of food on Wednesday, May 8, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, to help with a variety of tasks. Please spread the word to anyone you think could benefit from this special outreach and join us as we partner to help those in need. And once again, thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus in North Fort Myers.

**2019 Mother’s Day
 Luncheon**
 Saturday, May 11
 11 – 2
 \$5 per person

Featuring our special returning
 guest
“Lilly Grace”

Please sign up in the foyer
 and if you would like to help,
 contact Betty Garten



Church News:

- Our dear friend and winter resident, **Dick Van Skiver**, passed away at his home on April 17, 2019. Notes of sympathy can be sent to Janet Van Skiver, 201 Ciccone Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28791
- **Ken Vandelinde**, beloved husband of Wanda Vandelinde, passed away at his home on April 10, 2019. Notes of sympathy and condolences can be sent to Wanda Vandelinde at, 205 Carriage Lane, North Fort Myers, FL 33917
- Long-time church member, **Bonnie Rose**, passed away at Manor Care Nursing Home on April 22, 2019. Notes of sympathy can be sent to her daughter, Marcella Johnson, 18405 Sunflower Road, Fort Myers, FL 33967.
- **Jerry Parker** underwent hip replacement surgery on April 16, and is recovering at home. Notes of encouragement can be sent to 29 Ligonier Drive, North Fort Myers, Florida 33903.
- Our church foyer has gotten a face-lift. If you have not seen the new look, come check it out.



Janet & Dick Van Skiver



Wanda & Ken Vandelinde



Bonnie & Paul Rose



Before



After



Bringing the Light!

A few months back my uncle Billy passed away, and I was asked to speak at his memorial service. One of the memories that was shared about him by several at his service was how he regularly gave flashlights to people he was close to. My father, Billy's brother, told me that over the years, Billy gave him several different kinds of flashlights of all shapes and sizes. So, it was no surprise that at the funeral dinner there was a man who had been good friends with Billy, handing out small flashlights and telling us that just because Billy was gone did not mean we didn't still need a light. It was good to see someone carrying on Uncle Billy's tradition.

We read in Isaiah 9:

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

As we move away from a glorious Easter season, rather than think of it as just one more Easter celebration, let us reflect on not just what Jesus did, but Who He truly is in our lives.

You don't have to be a follower of Jesus to recognize good and evil as the prevailing forces at work in our world. If light is associated with good and darkness with evil, it must have seemed that evil had the upper hand that dark day in Palestine long ago. However, down through the ages, we have referred to that day as "Good Friday." It *was* a good day for us. Because on that day, GOD's Son died on the cross for all human sin.

In the 11th chapter of John, we are told the story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. In verses 25 and 26, Jesus tells Martha:

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Martha believes before the resurrection.

In John 8:12 Jesus said,

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

The Light of this World, Jesus, is ALIVE!

He died. But He rose again, and that verifies that GOD has accepted Jesus' death on the cross as the full payment for all our sins.

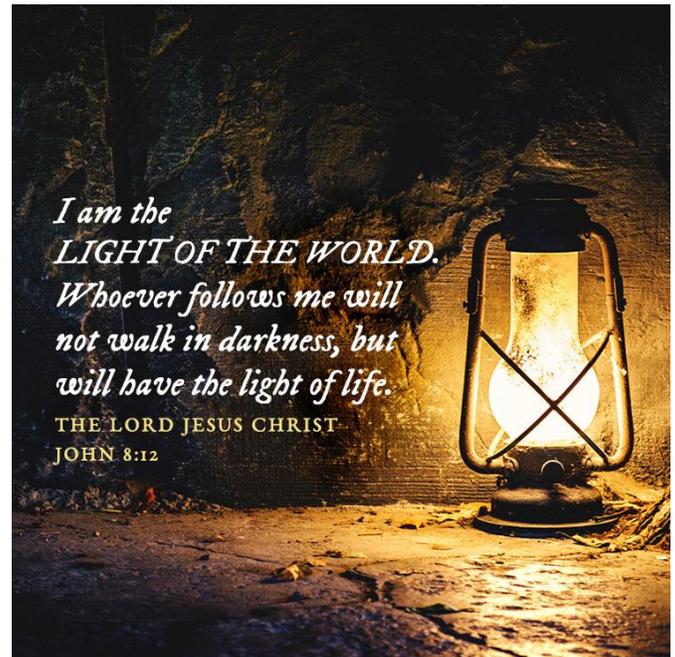
Jesus' resurrection turns all our sadness to joy.

It makes us friends of GOD, and is the foundation for our faith, life, and hope!

Handing out flashlights is a good thing to do if we want people to be able to make their way in the dark. However, let us make sure we are also handing out the Light of the World as well.

The people walking in darkness need a Great Light. Tell them about Jesus!

Blessings, Pastor Van



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