

The Messenger

N. Ft. Myers Church of the Nazarene

A loving, caring, serving community of believers in Jesus

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New Hope

by Charles R. Swindoll

Psalm 13

How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?
How long will You hide Your face from me?
How long shall I take counsel in my soul,
Having sorrow in my heart all the day?
How long will my enemy be exalted over me?
Consider *and* answer me, O Lord my God;
Enlighten my eyes, or I will sleep the *sleep of* death,
And my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
And my adversaries will rejoice when I am shaken.
But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness;
My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord,
Because He has dealt bountifully with me.

Floundering with my father is among my most cherished childhood memories. Armed with a beat-up Coleman lantern, two gigs, a stringer . . . we'd head to the water. When the sky got nice 'n' dark, we'd wade in about knee-deep and stumble off into the night.

By and by we'd round the point about a mile away from the bay cottage where the other members of the Swindoll tribe were. And here we were---knee-deep in muddy, cold salt water, with nothing but thick darkness in front of us. To this day I remember looking back wistfully over my shoulder toward that ever-so-tiny light in the distance.

Soon I began asking myself why. Why in the world had I agreed to come? And if I asked him once, I must have asked a dozen times, "How much longer, Daddy? When are we gonna turn around?"

While he was searching for flounder, I was listening for those marvelous words, "Well, Son, this is far enough. Let's turn around." Instantly, I found myself wading on tiptoes,

caring nothing about finding some poor flounder---only that light, that tiny signal in the distance that assured me my dad really knew the way. Once spotted, my entire personality changed. My anxieties were relieved. My questions were answered. Hope lit the darkness like a thousand lanterns . . . Hope---how powerful is its presence.

Take from us our wealth and we are hindered. Take our health and we are handicapped. Take our purpose and we are slowed, temporarily confused. But take away our hope and we are plunged into deepest darkness . . . stopped dead in our tracks, paralyzed. Wondering, "Why?" Asking, "How much longer? Will this darkness ever end? Does He know where I am?"

Then the Father says, "That's far enough," and how sweet it is! Hope revives and washes over us.

Are you ready for a light at the end of your tunnel? Look! There it is in the distance. It may be tiny, but it's there. You made it! Your Father knew exactly where He was going. And why. And for how long. That cottage in the distance? You'll soon be there, laughing and singing again with the family. One day your journey into darkness may be one of your most cherished memories.

There is nothing like light, however small and distance, to put us on tiptoes in the darkness.



October Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 – Don & CJ Atkins
 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

October Calendar

4 – Pumpkin Delivery
 4-31 – Pumpkin Patch
 8-10 – District Pastors & Spouses Retreat
 16 – The Cody's arriving
 21 – Church Board Meeting
 30 – Trunk or Treat



October



Prayer Needs

The Cody Family
 Perry Souzis
 Jeff Clark
 June Carsey
 Shelby Pickett
 Rev. Greg Story, D.S.
 Paul Jones
 Dorothy & Laurel Chapman
 Louis Perez
 Kenny & Gail Goodman
 Unsaved Loved Ones

Sharon Cissney
 Julia Moore
 Lisa Koch
 Drew Baker
 Elis Lodge
 Eileen Massett
 Tom Blakeman
 Paul & Grace Boling
 The Monroe Family
 Eileen Jennings
 Those affected negatively by Covid

Patrick Lindsey
 Janet Van Skyver
 Jeffrey Hailey
 Greg Atkins
 Martha Wade
 Dave Peck
 Joseph Groves
 Lorraine Jungles
 The Garner Family
 Doug Keuther

Darlene Roach
 Wendy & Emily Horvath
 Anna Marie Anderson
 Cindy Jones' son
 Ernie Rybolt
 Regina Williams & Fam
 Flood Victims in TN
 Our District Family
 The Church Roof
 Afghanistan & Haiti



THE CODY'S ARE COMING!

Get ready to welcome our new
 worship/youth pastor and his family.
 Saturday, October 16
 Aaron and Jamie and their children,
 Dereion, Kia, and ZZ

Busy Hands

Tuesdays 9:30
 Fellowship Hall



Pumpkin Patch

2021 is in full swing and we need your help. Please sign up in the foyer to work the patch. The shifts are three hours each, and it's wonderful fun to engage with our neighbors and friends as you sit in the beautiful outdoors and enjoy being in the fresh air.