

August 2024

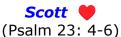


"My grace is sufficient for you and my power is made perfect in powerlessness." (2 Cor. 12: 9)

At a recent Tuesday morning discussion, we were wrestling with our own sense of limitations. For some of us, it was a breakdown of physical health. For others, it revolved around the struggle with positive, personal change. We *all* find limits of any sort to be a formidable challenge to the way we think life is supposed to operate.

I thought about the many instances the word "welcome" is used in the Bible. One of the most repeated occurrences is where we are invited to welcome "the stranger". I thought about how "strangers" in our lives, those elements outside of our planned reality, tend to be treated as hostile intruders. I mean, I get it. Nobody wants stuff in their life that raises a perceived threat to our well-being. So we naturally put up some serious resistance to those nasty "strangers".

But, what if we changed our stance a bit? What if we consciously chose to welcome those elements and the apparent limits they gift us with? Would we discover a new found trust and freedom and joy that unexpectedly arises as we walk this scary path with the Crucified One? What if?



KEEPING YOU INFORMED:

- BAPTISM/BBQ! Aug. 23. Come join the fun at Christina Kolo's house (39485 S. McKenzie Pt. Rd. 989-302-6338),
 4:30 pm, where Teri Underhill (and possible others) will be baptized. Bring a dish to share, with the host providing dogs & burgers.
- **HARP CONCERT!** Mark your calendars for **Aug. 25**. Renowned harpist, Amy

Shreve, will lead us in creative worship for our Sunday morning service. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend to a high quality music experience!



ITEMS FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE CHRISTMAS BOXES

When out shopping, if you see an item that

you think a child in need would like, please pick it up. We are collecting such items for the Samaritan's Purse gift boxes and hope to have pizza and a gift box packing party in November if we collect enough items. The age groups are: 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14. There are designated boy or girl boxes you may shop for, and you may drop them off at the Lighthouse Church. For many children, it is their first gift ever! School supplies sales will be coming soon. If we shop ahead, it isn't so overwhelming during the holiday season. Thank you for contributing to this mission outreach to bring the joy of Christmas and the love of Christ to some of the poorest of God's children.

YARD SALE: Friday August 30th from 9-5 and Saturday August 31st from 9-2 at 33366 S. Center St. in the U Block. Drop off saleable items Thursdays 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd. Proceeds will go for The Romania Mission Trip in October. Any questions call Shirley Hollister at 517-425-2836 or

ahappyheart46@yahoo.com. Thank You!

Third quarter missions is devoted to *local* outreach. We prayerfully support individuals, families, and organizations that are here in our community. Collection Sunday is **Sept. 29**.

From Karin Benson, based on Ps. 70:

Make haste, O God to deliver Donald Trump, President Biden, all the rulers of the world, and our land, make haste to help them. O Lord. Let them who seek to destroy our peace, seek to cause upheaval and those who

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(Over)

are trying to destroy America be confused, dishonored and turned backwards. Let those who seek evil for our leaders and our country be disgraced and exposed. Let those who seek You, and look to you for strength, rejoice and and be grateful and say: "Let the Lord be Magnified." RememberLord, we are human, and fickle, but our hearts or are for you and your ways. Please come now in our Hour of need and Help us O Lord. You are our Help and our deliverer; do not tarry. Thank you Lord for hearing this prayer. In Jesus name, AMEN.



"For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100:5 (NIV)

Horrified, I placed

the phone back in its charger. My mind reeled. What could I say to one of my dearest friends after this new tragedy had struck? First, she experienced the loss of a fourteen-year-old son to brain cancer. Now her eldest son, only eighteen, had been discovered mugged and murdered. Incomprehensible.

She asked, "Why?" I had no answer other than, "I don't know, but I cling to the factual knowledge that God is good, regardless. Tragedies in this life are beyond our understanding this side of heaven."

I believe Jesus is good, and that knowledge sings from the depths of my soul. This nugget of truth is more precious than life itself to me. The true story of Horatio G. Spafford demonstrates this type of faith in God's goodness. Spafford wrote the familiar hymn, "It is Well with My Soul" in 1872 after his four daughters drowned, soon after his own financial bankruptcy. He, somehow, held onto the fact that despite the outward circumstances, God was good. He wrote, "And

Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight." He knew that his faith was not in vain, and that someday he would see the meaning and purpose of all the tragedy surrounding his life at that moment.

God is good, even as I mourn with my friend. I have witnessed her grief, anger, and doubt. But throughout the passing months, I have watched her cling to Jesus with hands wet with tears. My friend believes God is good all the time even when she can't feel it with her emotions. Her faith rests in the fact, "The Lord is good and his love endures forever."

Dear Lord, grant me the faith to know that You are good all the time, even during the most difficult circumstances of this life. When I am weak, lift me up. Enable me to accept the love and comfort from others who love me, but let me rely on Your everlasting love for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

(Excepted from an article by Suzanne Schleppmann: https://proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2009/05/19/tru sting-god-during-difficult-times#:~:text=Dear%20Lord%2C%20arant%20me%20the,In%20Jesus'%20Name%2C%20Amen.)

August Birthdays

- 14. Danielle Titus
- 17. Bill Stacy
- 18. Nancy Yarmoluk
- 19. Laura Witt
- 22. Greg Yarmoluk
- 24. Laurie Mitchell
- 29. Sue Tyler

(If we don't have your birthday or anniversary, let us know!)

ARTICLES FOR THE <u>SEPTEMBER</u> NEWSLETTER ARE DUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY <u>TUESDAY</u>, AUGUST 20th (Email, if possible.)



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