

CW Church
March-April 2020

Psalm 145:3

Great is the Lord and
most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can
fathom.

The Grapevine



Craft and Verse

Almost every Friday morning at 10:00 this group meets at the office complex. We are a small group of crafters who enjoys getting together, working on our chosen crafts, and memorizing scripture. We have been meeting for approximately 5 years now and our group has ebbed and waned. Currently there are 5 of us that are regulars.



We crochet, knit, sew, scrapbook, diamond paint, quilt and color. Anyone is welcome! If you don't craft just come and spend some time in fellowship.



LACF Latin American Children's Fund



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Your generous involvement in the ministry at the Roma Lee Courvisier School continues to impact the lives of children and young people in the community at Reque, Peru. In December 2019, there were twelve in the graduating class. Among the graduates is Leslie Custdio Campos who is planning to continue her education and get a degree in accounting. These young people are leaving our school equipped to become Christian leaders in the community.

After many years, Maria was able to get her VISA reinstated last year which enabled her to visit the USA to see Rachel graduate from college and get to spend some time with my Mom in St. Louis. A special thank you to those of you who helped to make that trip possible. It meant more to Maria than you will ever know.

Our four children are growing up fast. Timothy is now 25 years old and is studying Communications in a local university. Rachel spent a few months with us in Peru after graduation and will be returning to the USA in the near future to continue on with her master's degree in Psychology. Paul is 18 now and is planning to go to Miami University in Ohio in the fall of 2020 to begin his studies in Biology. Matthew is going into the 9th grade when school begins in March.

Many of you have asked about my sister and mother who are both having health issues. Kathy's stroke last year left her with limited physical mobility, but she is still able to live at home with her husband in my mom's home. Mom will be 90 in May this year and is having a little more difficulty getting around.

We faced a lot of challenges last year, and God has been faithful. Your faithfulness and support for this ministry is such an encouragement! Please continue to pray that more children and their families will make a decision for Christ and join us in sharing the love of Christ with others.

May 2020 be a wonderful year for you. You are in my thoughts and prayers often.

In His Service,

Ken Biron

Missionary and Field Director for LACF



CW SPORTS

Hello all, the 2020 CW Basketball season is winding to an end. I want to take a moment to thank everyone who supported us, came to watch, pray, minister to our families and volunteered their time for the games coaching and the kitchen. The season would not be as big of a success as it was without all of you. So, thank you for all you have put in to the season this year.

John 15:5-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵ "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so, you will be My disciples.

Our devotions for the year circle around a vine, branches and grapes. The metaphor in John 15 is of a vine and its branches. The vine is the source and sustenance of life for the branches, and the branches must abide in the vine to live and bear fruit. Jesus, of course, is the vine, and the branches are people who have accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. While it is obvious the fruit-bearing branches represent true Christians. The children learned to be a good branch and to bear fruit they needed to put good out in the world. Spread the Word of God. Let your action be those of Jesus.

The children have grown not only spiritually but also in their skills. We had 2 preschoolers that could not even dribble a ball at the beginning of the season. Now at the end they are dribbling all the way down the court and making baskets. We've even seen some great sportsmanship where the older kids would help the younger kids get more opportunities to make sure everyone made a basket. When I saw that I knew that Pastor Ralph and the coaches had made an impact on the kid's life. Instead of being all about who got to make the most baskets. They were teaching each other what being Christ-like was. The older children had a rough start, but with some guidance they learned how to be the fruit of the spirit. I also think we may have some all-stars in the group, so keep an eye on them in the next few years as they continue to hone their skills and grow.

As we wind up the season, the closing ceremony is being held on March 8th at 6pm. With all the great work and sportsmanship, we saw, we are giving away a new sportsmanship award this year. There are trophies, medals, and awards to be given out. Please come out and support our awesome ball players and cheerleaders that night.

Once again thank you for all your support.

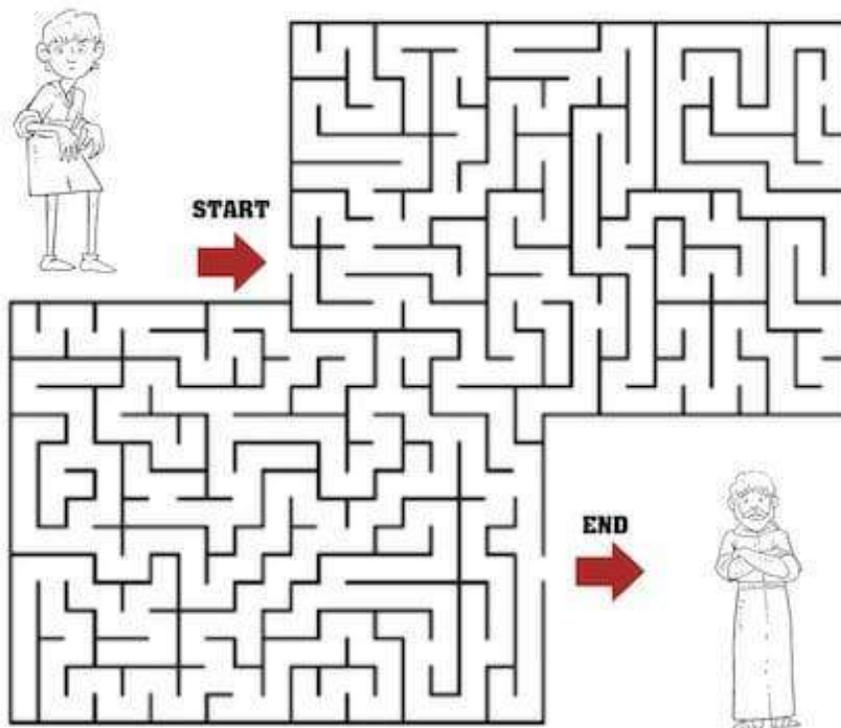
***Thank you
Tracy Milburn***



WANTED: Bible Detectives

Solve Labyrinth #6: Gideon's Journey

All God's people have problems to solve and to help them grow in faith! They are a little like labyrinths. GIDEON did not feel equipped to be a judge of Israel. He wondered at God's choice of him. But his faith grew as God went before him. Once God asked him to defeat an army so big it looked like "a swarm of locusts." Only God sent two-thirds of Gideon's army home first. THEN, he sent home most of the 10,000 remaining—except for a mere 300 soldiers. It was with this handful of men that Gideon defeated the huge enemy army. Follow Gideon as he goes through the labyrinth of not believing in himself to believing the God of Israel is powerful enough to lead him in destroying an army the size of a locust swarm.



Look up Hebrews 11. Find the verse that goes with this famous faith passage about this hero:

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions...

Hebrews 11: ____ & ____

Why?????

I remember growing up asking my parents “Why?” Of course it was usually because it was something that they wanted me to do that I really didn’t want to do. “Rob, clean your room.” “Why? It’s just going to get dirty again.” “Rob, take a shower.” “Why? I’m just going to go outside and get sweaty, dirty, and grimy again and then you’ll want me to take another shower.” I learned after getting into trouble a few times of asking “Why?” that you didn’t ask “Why?” you just went and did what they asked. Besides that the answer wasn’t what you wanted to hear anyway, most of the time. “Because I said so, that’s why. If you have a problem with that then we’ll have a problem.” So, off I went to do whatever they asked me to do, most of the time with a good attitude, but there were times that the attitude wasn’t so good. There were times when I walked away mumbling to myself, “I still don’t understand Why, this is the most stupidest thing I have to do. But I don’t want the trouble, so, I’ll do it just to get it over with. I’m not happy about it, but let’s get it done.” Wrong attitude, wrong spirit, and then the job usually wasn’t done very well and I would have to go back and do it again.

What do you do though when life throws you something tough and you don’t want to do it, you look at God and go “Why?” “Why do I have to have kids who are on drugs? Why do I have to have a husband who left me? Why do I have to deal with parents who have Alzheimers? Why do I have cancer? Why, God, this isn’t fair? Other people are being so blessed and have life so easy. They’re kids are well-behaved. They’re healthy. They have such a good family. Why me Lord?” Just as you get a hold of one situation, another rises up and piles on top. “Why, God? Will this ever end?”

Seven years ago I went through that. I went through a stage of asking God “Why?” Pastoring CW Church is a great thing. Life was good. Dawn and I had moved into the parsonage, we were seeing new people come into the church from the community. We were seeing lives changed in the services. There were things happening in the church. God was moving and it was just awesome. One day, I was working at the church on Sunday’s worship service. I had gone home for lunch and come back to the church for the afternoon. As I was walking across the main room, I had this chest pain, broke out in a sweat, and got very weak. I also got a severe headache right behind my right eye. I thought I was dying right there on the spot. Thank the Lord for cell phones. I called Dawn and told her that she needed to come home right then and we needed to go to the hospital. Off we went. They ran all kinds of test over the next 24 hours and found nothing. Everything came back normal. I still had the headache, but the chest pain was gone. My family doctor sent me to an optometrist to have my eyes checked who then sent me to OSU to a optic neurologist. After a lot of testing, MRI’s, and scans, we found that there were two viruses that were attacking my central nervous system that caused optic neuritis and that I would go blind in the one eye that would eventually come back, but not back to full strength. It did just that. I have a blind spot in my right eye. He then sent me to a neurologist who started treating me for Clinically Isolated Syndrome with the high risk of Multiple Sclerosis. I was showing all kinds of symptoms, but didn’t fit the category for MS yet, praise the Lord. This past May I received the diagnosis of MS and now have experienced all kinds of new symptoms, new meds, and new issues.

During all of this, I would go to my office, get on my knees and cry out to the Lord and say, “Why? Why this? Why now? Why me?” You know the answer I got, silence. He didn’t answer the question. It was much like my parents at times when I asked them “Why?” A lot of the time when they were asked, they just were quiet and that was the cue that I needed to get moving because the next words or actions were not going to be pleasant. Now, I don’t think that God was going to pour out judgment on me for asking Why, but there was silence. So, I started digging into the Psalms and found there was another man who struggled with life. His name was David. Do you realize that he spent most of his life running for his life? Even when he was king he had to run for his life, and from his own son. He would cry out to God about his enemies, he would cry out to God about his feelings, he would cry out to God about his situation. Most of the Psalms that he wrote started out with him whining and crying out to God. As I started reading those, I realized that, that’s what I was doing. I was whining and crying out to God. I also realized that God, being my Heavenly Father, wants to hear my cries. He wants to hear my heart. He wants to hear from me. So, I started not only to cry out in prayer, but I started writing these things down. I started crying out to God in a journal, letting Him know how I felt about what I was going

through. It wasn't easy to deal with. It wasn't easy to go through. I didn't like the lumbar punctures that I had to have, I didn't like the MRI's, I didn't like the hospital stays, I didn't like the blood draws, I didn't like all the doctor visits, and I still don't. However, God knows that and we've settled that between us.

If you continue to read the Psalms that David wrote, you'll find out that even though he cried out, even though he whined and even asked why, he still submitted. He still followed the Lord. He praised and worshipped God for Who He was and how faithful He was. He still lifted Him up in all of His glory. In the midst of running for his life, in the midst of fighting for his life, in the midst of hiding in the caves, in the midst of his enemies, David sought after the Lord, whined a little and then worshiped. He knew where his strength came from. He knew where his hope was found. He knew who held his life in the palm of His hand. That's why he was a man after God's own heart. In asking "Why?" the Lord has shown me at least part of the picture of "Why?" Since getting sick I've been able to minister to several people across the country who have MS as well as to their families. I've been able to listen, try and help them, but most importantly lead them to the Lord who will give them the strength they need to fight this disease. Is there a cure? No. Is there hope? Absolutely. That hope is found in Jesus Christ and in Him alone. Next time you want to ask "Why?" Go ahead, but be ready for the answer, even if it's silence.

Love,

Pastor Rob

ACKNOWLEDGING YOUR EMOTIONS

Help me, O LORD my God. With my mouth I will give thanks abundantly to the LORD (Psalm 109:26,30)

Nancy was a college student with an inability to express the anger and resentment she felt. "My roommate gets to the point sometimes where she just explodes emotionally to let off steam. I have deep feelings too, but I'm not sure that a Christian is supposed to let off steam."

I opened my Bible to Psalm 109:1-13 and read David's angry words against an enemy. "What's that doing in the Bible?" Nancy gasped. "How could David pray all those evil things about his enemy? That's pure hatred."

"David's words didn't surprise God," I answered. "God already knew what he was thinking and feeling. David was simply expressing his pain and anger honestly to his God."

I encouraged Nancy that when she is able to dump her hurt and hatred before God she probably won't dump it on her roommate in a destructive way. I also reminded her that David was as honest about his need for God as he was about expressing his feelings. He closed the psalm by praying: "Help me, O LORD my God. With my mouth I will give thanks abundantly to the LORD" (verses 26,30).

I think the way David acknowledged his feelings is healthy. If you come to your prayer time feeling angry, depressed or frustrated, and then mouth a bunch of pious platitudes as if God doesn't know how you feel, do you think He is pleased? Not unless He's changed His opinion about hypocrisy. In God's eyes, if you're not real, you're not right.

Acknowledging your emotions also involves being real in front of a few trusted friends. During his travels, Paul had Barnabas, Silas or Timothy to lean on. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus expressed His grief to His inner circle of Peter, James and John. If you have two or three people like this in your life, you are truly blessed.

Thank You, Lord, that I can be real and honest with You. Help me develop a few trusted friends who will also welcome my emotional honesty.

Neil Anderson

Columbus West Ladies Bible Study

God Said....

If you will.....

Seek the Lord, faithfully obey, do all his commandments

Then I will

cause you to find me, will not leave you or destroy you

After a long respite during the Summer, the ladies of the Bible Study got together and began digging into the Word of God, Old Testament. The study that we have been using is supposed to help us see Jesus, his promises and his warnings and the joy of worshiping the Lord.

We enjoy being together, learning the meaning of The Word, and growing in His grace and love. We are becoming more at ease in sharing our feelings and concerns. As we do this we are also growing to love the Lord more and understand how we can help support each other as we develop the ministries that God is calling us too.

We would like to invite the Ladies of Columbus West to share their Thursday Mornings with us. We meet at 10:00 AM on *Thursdays at Eagles Nest. We are delighted to have you.* ■

A Passion for Souls

The souls of men, women, youth, and children are invaluable and the Christian's goal is to win them, but to win them we need passion. We need devotion to a life that is willing to suffer with the suffering kind of love that Jesus had when He Himself hung on the cross for the redemption of mankind.

You say that you can't have the kind of love that Jesus had: "I'm not Jesus. There is no way that I can have the same compassion and the same passion and the same expression of intensity for lost people as Jesus did."

I have news for you. If you have Jesus, you have His love. If you have Jesus, you have His compassion. If you have Jesus, you have all of Jesus available to you or you have none of Jesus.

The problem is that we aren't willing to allow the Jesus we have live through our lives. It's not that you don't have the love of God, it's not that you don't have the compassion of Jesus, the problem often is we don't want to take the risk of taking Jesus to that person who needs Him.

If you have Jesus living inside of your heart, you can have Him loving through your heart. If you have Jesus loving you in your heart, then you can let Jesus love through your heart. That's what He intends to do through you. That's the way He wants to live His life through you.

Do you know what living Christianity is? It is so much more simplistic than what most people think it is. Living Christianity is so simple. Basically, it is getting out of the way and letting Jesus mind His own business in you.

Really, that ought to take a load off. What about this perspective? What about that approach? Forget that! What about this method? What about this agenda? Forget it! Let Jesus be Jesus in you!

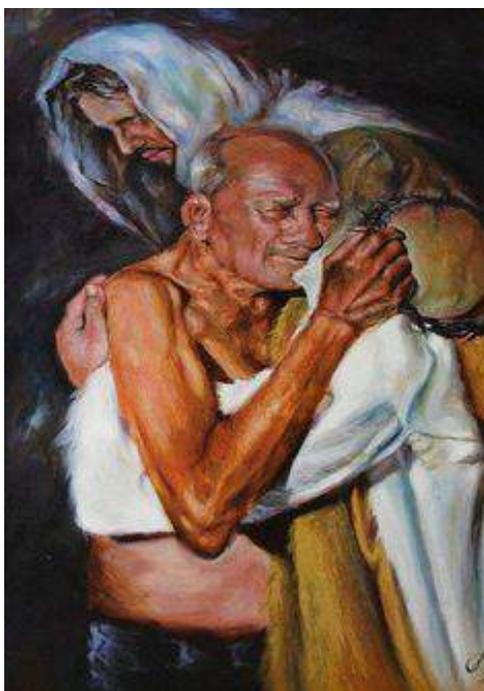
If you do that, you cannot help but love the one who doesn't know Jesus. Jesus, through you, will love them and you will stop one of these days and say, "Did I say that? Did I love that person like that?"

No! Jesus did!

If Jesus is living in you, He can speak through your lips. He can give through your hands. He can see through your eyes. He can feel through your heart. That is the whole plan for the body of Christ. You, as the spiritual body of Christ are to reach and as you reach, Jesus reaches. As you look, Jesus sees. As you speak, He speaks. As you feel, He feels through the body of Christ.

That's pretty intensive, don't you think? That is pretty incredible love. The passion for souls drove God to sacrifice His Son, His only begotten Son.

We are to share and live that passion if Jesus lives in us. Does He?



One Passion

When I was a boy, I had a pocket knife that I purchased at the local five and dime store (I know, you don't even know what that was). I paid one dollar for that pocket knife. One dollar. It had two blades, a couple of different kinds of screw drivers, a pair of scissors and a can opener. I spent one dollar on that knife. I was so proud.

Only one problem, the metal they used to make that knife was not strong. It was weak, so the first time I went to use that screw driver, it broke off. The first time I used that can opener, it broke off. The first time I used that other screw driver, it broke off. The first time I used that knife blade, it broke off and the first time I used that other knife blade, it broke off and when I went to use those scissors, they fell apart and I threw the pocket knife away.

That pocket knife wasn't worth a dime. I paid one dollar for it. All those blades were made of inferior material. The bottom line of that knife was that it did a lot of things poorly.

Unfortunately, many believers are like my one dollar pocket knife. We do a lot of things poorly. We are so engrossed in the activities of our lives that we have no focus and no purpose. James 1:8 says that man is double minded and is unstable in all his ways.

We need to get a good well-made gospel knife out and start cutting with the Gospel. One blade, not six blades doing everything poorly. One purpose, one goal, one vision, one design, one desire, one motive and that is to win the world to Christ Jesus.

Jesus is our perfect example of a man with a single passion purpose. He said that the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. That is why He came. That's what He came to accomplish and He is still doing that.

What about us? What is our passion? What is our purpose? What about our congregation? What is our passion? What is our purpose? What is the purpose of the church? Why do we exist? What is our mission?

We need to adopt, we need to embrace, we need to take into our purpose and our lives the purpose of Jesus. That purpose was to seek and to save the lost.

What are we doing to seek the lost? What are we doing to save the lost?

If we don't do it, Who will?



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