

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Church Family,

Recently, I was at home alone when I heard a knock on the door. When I answered it, I saw two very young teenagers staring at me, appearing somewhat petrified. They were nicely dressed as if returning from a church service. One of them asked me, "Can I share with you some words of encouragement from the Bible?" "Sure!" I responded.

With a somewhat shaky voice (I could tell she was new at this and somewhat nervous), she read a verse from the book of Psalms or Isaiah. I honestly do not recall the specific verse, but it had something to with inheriting the earth in some general way.

After reciting the passage, she closed the book and asked, "Wouldn't it be wonderful to live forever on this earth?"

I thought for a moment. Honestly, I didn't think it would be that great. In a flash of a moment, I thought about the sin, destruction, and all the effects from the Fall that this world suffers: my body aches most days, illness and pestilence run rampant frequently around the world, starvation, poverty, disease, war, murder, theft, and on and on occur consistently. That didn't sound wonderful to me. I think I'd rather live in a different place, say, heaven where there will no longer be death, mourning, crying, or pain (Rev. 21:4).

I didn't respond, however, with what I was thinking. Instead, I returned her question with a question of my own: "You two are Jehovah's Witnesses, aren't you?"

Looking somewhat surprised and sheepish, they responded, "Yes. We would like to share more with you if you'd like."

I declined for the moment (I was in the middle of something and had a meeting to go to), but I invited them back for a future discussion. They conceded, we exchanged pleasantries, and off they went down the road.

The question echoed in my head: "Do *you* want to live on this earth forever?" The Jehovah's Witnesses, taking the Old Testament prophecies given to Israel and applying them to themselves, teach that those who follow their religion will live on this earth forever.

Thankfully, this is not what the Scriptures actually teach. Rather, Christians are promised they will live in a *new* heavens and a *new* earth in which righteousness dwells (2 Pet. 3:13). The present heavens "will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat." The earth itself "will be burned up" (2 Pet. 3:10). Jesus will proclaim, "Behold, I am making all things new!" (Rev. 21:5) and the "former things will have passed away" (Rev. 21:4). And best of all: God will dwell with us, his people (Rev. 21:3).

Talk about glorious! I cannot wait! I don't want to live on this present earth forever when God promises so much more. C.S. Lewis, in his book *The Weight of Glory*, wrote, "If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are far too easily pleased." Don't be fooled by cheap imitations of God's promises. God promises much more than we could ever imagine. Don't settle for this world: embrace the hope for the one God has promised us—one without sin, death, and decay. This is where we are headed. *Sola Dei Gloria!*

Your Friend and Minister,
Dr. Pete

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Please email articles to
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by the **23rd of each month!!**

SERMON SERIES

Sermon Series

Foundations of the Faith:

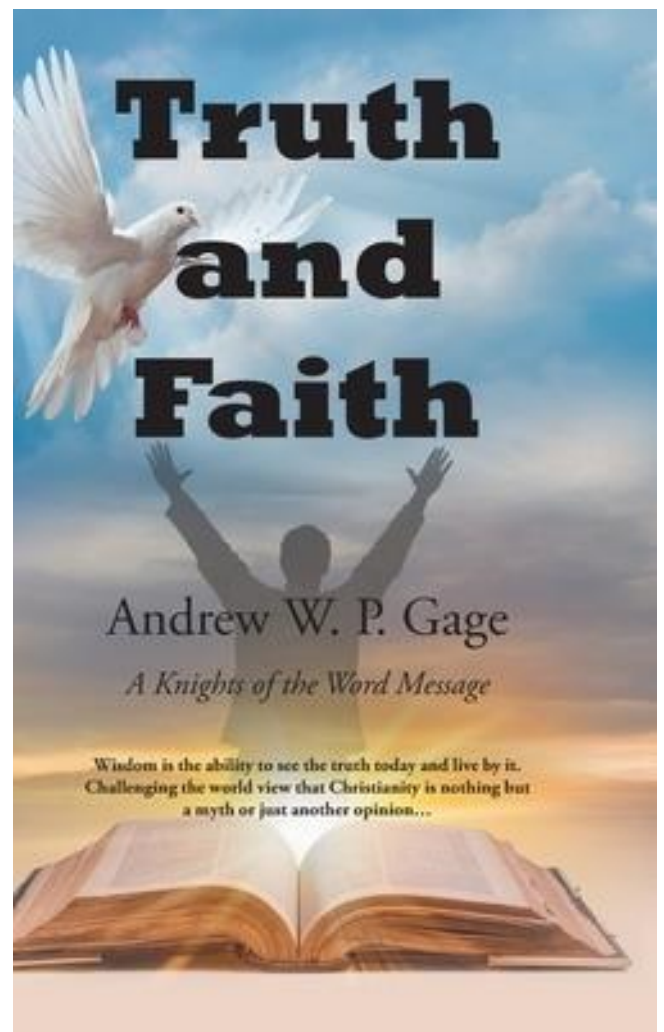
6/2 Foundation 1: Truth, Prov. 3:3

6/9 Foundation 2: Faith, Heb. 11:1

6/16 Foundation 3: Father's Day

6/23 Foundation 4: God, Isa. 45:22

6/30 Family Sunday



Missions Spotlight



Please pray for Christian City this month. They offer a Children's Village that provides out of home care for children ages 5-17 in crisis, Thrive Transitional Living provides housing, supportive services, life-skills education, and appropriate supervision for youth 18-24 who are aging out of the foster care system or who are homeless. They also offer "Safe Place" which is part of a national network for runaway or homeless youth. They respond 24/7 to pick up youth, provide shelter, love and try to help them figure out what next steps are in their lives.

They also offer adoption and foster care. Christian City has "Healthy Families" which provides a variety of support for working families facing a crisis. Lastly they offer senior living. There are many ways to get involved if your interested either by volunteering donated items for their Graceland Thrift Store, working as a Tutor, becoming a host family etc.

Christian City is a local 500- acre mission located fifteen minutes south of Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. Please pray for this important ministry for the month of June!

Thrive

God is moving in a mighty way in Thrive over the past month.

Last month we had youth come to Christ, and again this month.

Over the past couple of years, Brandon Cooper started bringing his friend Cameron Lindsey to church. Cam realized his need for Jesus and gave his life to Christ and was baptized.

And it gets better. Last Sunday, Cam brought his sister Anaya to church. She came specifically seeking Christ, and she gave her life over to the saving grace of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. She accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior after church service and was baptized.

Another youth from Berkmar also gave his life to Christ. Geo Rodriguez gave his life to Christ on the same night that Cam and was baptized as well. So awesome!

I am praying that this is the beginning of a revival in our youth group and in our church. God is at work, and I am humbled that I get to be a part of this.

I took two of the boys from Berkmar rappelling this past month. I used the time to build a relationship with them. Nothing helps people focus on God like putting your life on the line... literally. Hahaha. They had a blast.

On Sunday the 19th, we had our Graduation Sunday. To see all these young adults graduating high school and college is so amazing. We are so proud of all they have accomplished.

It was a bittersweet Sunday for Carrie and I as we recognized Christina as she graduated from High School.

I can't believe that God granted me the opportunity to not only be a spiritual leader at home, but also in Thrive.

She will be greatly missed in Youth Group, but she knows she is welcome back as a mentor when she is home, as is Mariah, Alyssa, and Bella.

All four of them are beautiful souls that love the Lord and have demonstrated a desire to know him on a deeper level over these past few years.

May God keep you close to him and guide all our graduates as they move enter this new chapter in their lives.

God speed.

Alex Aleman
Youth Pastor



Six ladies attended Graduation Sunday. Alex and Peter gifted them with books and prayers.





May has been another busy month learning about Jesus in SHINE! On Mother's Day, we learned how Jesus provided for his mother, Mary, even as he was dying on the Cross by asking John to take care of her. The SHINE kids made a variety of crafts for their moms that day. We also had a breakfast of fruit and pastries for our moms because we know that they deserve it! In Children's Church, we have been learning about the Lord's Prayer. Schyler has been teaching the younger elementary kids on Wednesday nights about the disciples, and Jill just finished a series on apologetics (Case for Christ) for the older elementary kids. Six children have their New Testament books memorized now. God is at work in SHINE! Praise God!

By the time you read this, SCUBA VBS will have begun! Currently, we have 89 kids registered. What an answer to prayer! My biggest need is for everyone to be praying for this large-scale event. What an amazing opportunity we have to not only spread the gospel to the children that the Lord brings to us, but to display the gospel to everyone we come into contact with that week. We show the love of Christ through our words and actions. I couldn't do this without our faithful volunteers who have prayed and prepared for this week! Thank you!

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21





Recharged (Adult Singles)



The Recharged (Single Adult Group) will be going to the Booth Western Art Museum on Friday, July 19th. Besides viewing their permanent collection, we will have the opportunity to view three special exhibitions.

The Folwell Family: 5 Generations of Potters

This exhibition will feature Native American pottery from 5 generations of the Folwell family of the Santa Clara Pueblo. It was established around 1550 and is located along the Rio Grande in north-central New Mexico. At Santa Clara, pottery making is passed down from generation to generation, and the potters are famous for their hand-crafted blackware and redware.

We, The People – Portraits of Veterans in America

This exhibition is acclaimed artist Mary Whyte's unprecedented series of stirring portraits of American veterans. Featuring veterans of all ages and in all walks of life, one from each of our fifty states, Whyte's large-scale watercolors have captured the essence of our country's everyday people with courage, empathy, and honor.

Georgia- O'Keeffe, A Life Well Lived

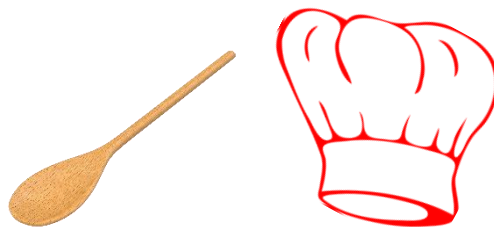
This collection of 48 previously unpublished photographs by Malcolm Varon reveals rarely seen aspects of O'Keeffe's life and personality. The exhibition is in association with the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum of Santa Fe.

Note: We will have lunch at Blevins Bistro in the museum. They offer freshly made sandwiches, salads, burgers, and desserts, plus light snacks and a variety of drinks.

The sign-up sheet will be in the foyer on Sunday, June 23. We hope you can come along!

Any questions, see Rosie Bengtson or Karen Throckmorton.

If you are interested in joining us, please sign up. Any questions? See Rosie Bengtson, Karen Throckmorton, Bill Michael, Marilyn Nelson, or Beverly Miles.



LCC Wednesday Night Kitchen Crew is off until school starts back in August. Enjoy your summer!

Upcoming

EVENTS



JUNE 2024

June

- 2-6 VBS
- 9 BBQ BASH, 5:00 – 7:00 pm
- 16 Father's Day
- 18 General Primary Election Run-off

July

- 4 Holiday
- 9 Ladies B.A.S.H. at 6:30 pm in the FLC
- 30 Ladies B.A.S.H., more info to follow

- 1 Amos 1-3; Matthew 13
- 2 Amos 4-6; Psalm 55; Matthew 14
- 3 Amos 7-9; Matthew 15
- 4 Hosea 1-3; Matthew 16
- 5 Hosea 4-6; Psalm 58; Matthew 17
- 6 Hosea 7-10; Matthew 18
- 7 Hosea 11-13; Matthew 19
- 8 Hosea 14; 2 Chr 26-27; Ps 61; Matt 20
- 9 2 Kings 15-16; Matthew 21
- 10 Isaiah 1-3; Psalm 9; Matthew 22
- 11 Isaiah 4-6; Matthew 23
- 12 Micah 1-4; Psalm 10; Matthew 24
- 13 Micah 5-7; Matthew 25
- 14 Isaiah 7-10; Psalm 22; Matthew 26
- 15 Isaiah 11-13; Psalm 118; Matthew 27
- 16 Isaiah 14-16; Matthew 28
- 17 Isaiah 17-19; Psalm 62; 1 Cor 1
- 18 Isaiah 20-22; 1 Corinthians 2
- 19 Isaiah 23-25; 1 Corinthians 3
- 20 Isaiah 26-29; Psalm 65; 1 Cor 4
- 21 Isaiah 30-32; 1 Corinthians 5
- 22 Isaiah 33-35; 1 Corinthians 6
- 23 2 Chr 28; 2 Kings 17; Ps 66; 1 Cor 7
- 24 2 Chr 29-31; 1 Corinthians 8
- 25 2 Kings 18-19; 2 Chr 32; Ps 67; 1 Cor 9
- 26 Isaiah 36-37; Psalm 123; 1 Cor 10
- 27 2 Kings 20; Isaiah 38-40; Ps 68; 1 Cor 11
- 28 Isaiah 41-44; 1 Corinthians 12
- 29 Isaiah 45-48; 1 Corinthians 13
- 30 Isaiah 49-52; Psalm 69; 1 Cor 14



Teresa Herring
Linda Proctor
Glenda Middleton
Dennis & Marcia
Heinz
Richard Walker
Carol Hill
Eddie & Carolyn
Ballew & Family
Laurie Evans
Connie Barefield
Whitney Krakeel



Guillermo Portilla
May 22, 2024



Anaya Epting
May 19, 2024

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Spreading the gospel to
every tribe and nation

 Happy
Father's
Day!   