



COVENANT PARTNER NEWS

Date: Sunday, July 18, 2021

Volume 1: Issue 12



AN UNSTOPPABLE GOSPEL

For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have set you as a light for the Gentiles to bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many had been appointed to eternal life believed."

Acts 13:47-48

One thing about the existence and growth of the church has become abundantly clear: that the spread of the Gospel has been and continues to be a divinely orchestrated movement. While Gallup Poll statistics show a 20-point decline in "church membership" in America since the turn of the century, with similar trends in Europe, Christ still is building His church and its progress is unstoppable. In

America and all over the world there are millions of people who are ripe for entry into God's Kingdom. For example, you might be surprised to learn that Iran, with between 800,000 and one million Christians, currently has the fastest growing church in the world (The Gospel Coalition, February 2021). Christianity is probably the fastest-growing faith in China, with at least 38 Million adherents today (about 3% of the population), up from 22 Million a decade ago, according to the government's count. Truly, the Gospel can take hold anywhere! Wherever the Word is planted and watered, God will open hearts and transform lives. Nothing - not a pandemic, prejudices, beatings, imprisonment, or death - shall be able to constrain God's power to deliver people out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Paul and Barnabas discovered this when the church at Antioch, in obedience to the Holy Spirit, sent them forth to

Cyprus (Acts 13:4), an island of great importance with a flourishing commercial center and a substantial Jewish community at the time. Their preaching of the Gospel appealed to some of the civic leaders, but antagonized others. Later in Antioch of Pisidia, the Jews also heard them announce that Jesus was the Messiah whom the Scriptures had declared would come, and whom the rulers of the Jews had rejected and crucified through the auspices of Pontus Pilate. But God raised up Jesus from the dead and fulfilled the promises He had made to their fathers.

Through Him alone is the remission of sins possible. So, it is futile to try to establish a right relationship with God by any other means except through faith in Jesus Christ. Near the end of this first missionary outreach, many of the Jews and God-fearing converts to Judaism had responded joyfully to the grace God had extended to them in the Gospel. That was

good news indeed; but the Holy Spirit had much more in mind.

The Gentiles who heard Paul's words spread the news throughout the city to such an extent that practically the whole Gentile population came to the synagogue on the next Sabbath day to hear the message. The overwhelmingly Gentile presence in the synagogue enraged the Jewish officials and leaders who had no use for a salvation that was open to Gentiles and Jews on the same basis and to the same extent. They could not see that, though Jews had the first opportunity to hear and believe the good news (John 1:12; Rom. 1:16), God's plan from before the foundation of the world was to save Gentiles as well. If the Jews at Pisidian Antioch were unwilling to serve as God's channel for getting the Gospel to the Gentiles in their midst, God was going to bypass them and deliver the message of salvation to the Gentiles directly. This pattern of events was repeated everywhere the Apostle Paul preached the Gospel; and everyone who was "appointed to eternal life" believed (Acts 13:48).

Acts 13 reveals that the Holy Spirit selectively, sovereignly, and successfully brings people to salvation, working through obedient servants. Perhaps millions will rejoice to hear the good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ this very day. We may not know how or when someone is going to respond to the Gospel; however, we can make it our fervent and urgent ambition to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit

as clearly and often as we can. Let's boldly and joyfully proclaim with the psalmist—

I love to tell the story of
unseen things above,
Of Jesus and his glory, of
Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, because
I know it's true;
It satisfies my longings as
nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story; tis
pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet
I love to tell the story, for
some have never heard

The message of salvation,
from God's own Holy Word.

I love to tell the story, for
those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when in scenes of glory, I
sing the new, new song
'Twill be the old, old story that
I have loved so long.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story;
'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story
of Jesus and His love.



THIS IS MY ONE

Please submit to the church office the name of the person for whom you are praying and with whom you are (planning to) sharing the gospel. The purpose is for the church to pray for both you and the individual you are evangelizing. Please pray for Keith and Bethany Robinson, Pastor Mike's neighbor. Last week, Keith spoke to Pastor

Mike and requested a meeting. God is at work!



All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will ^[a]by no means cast out. John 6:37

God knows the end from the beginning and in His omniscience, God knows all who will believe on the only begotten Son of God for the salvation of their soul; the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. And in these few simple, yet profound words, Jesus declares that man's salvation is dependent on two things: 1) divine sovereignty AND 2) divine grace for we are told that 1) all those that the Father gives Me will come to Me, AND 2) the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. The whole company of believers who trust in Christ for salvation becomes a sovereign love-gift from God the Father to God the Son - through time and into eternity - and we are given God's supreme assurance that all who come by grace through faith in Christ will be given to Him by the Father - and none shall pluck them out of the His hands - and this is God's sovereign will.

But Christ adds that every single person who trusts in Him for salvation will be accepted,

eternally secure, and none will be cast away. Salvation is made available to all who come to Christ, for God's free gift of Salvation. Everyone who comes to Christ is given the assurance that He will certainly not cast out or reject them. There is also another way to view this verse, the gift of faith proceeds from the free election of the Father in Christ, after which everlasting life most certainly will follow. Therefore, faith in Christ Jesus is a sure witness of our election, and therefore of our glorification, which is to come.



Each Tuesday at 7 PM using our regular conference line call-in number: 1.712.770.4952; access code 875378#.

Subject: *Life Lessons from the book of 1st Thessalonians.*

THIS WEEK EVENTS

PRAYER AND FASTING

Friday, July 23, 2021
6:00AM-6:00PM

Prayer Focus:

- **Boldness to share the gospel and the Lord will bless our efforts to reach at least one soul for Christ this year**
- **Wisdom as we prepare to reopen the Church**
- **Wisdom regarding outreach efforts in Ivy City**

- **Teachers and children who will be returning to school in the fall**
- **God will open the eyes of our Ivy City neighbors to repent of sin and see His grace and mercy for them in Christ**
- **Sick and shut-in of BBC**
- **BBC's unity**
- **Pastor Mike and family and Minister Payne and family**
- **CE Spiritual Life Weekend**



Fellowship In the Park

Saturday, July 24, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Arboretum. Bring your own lunch and if you want, your favorite lawn chair (chairs will be provided also)



INSPIRATIONAL COOKBOOK

The Women's Ministry is gathering recipes for our "Sister to Sister Inspirational Cookbook". We are asking for recipe submissions. Recipes can be original and if not, credit must be given to the appropriate source.

You may submit a story about the recipe and or a picture to accompany it. You may submit the recipe(s) via email to Deborah Dickerson

(debrad07@gmail.com); Sharon Becton (sharonbecton23@gmail.com) or by mail: Attention Women's Ministry, Bethesda Baptist Church, 1808 Capitol Ave NE, Washington DC 20002. Recipes are due by September 4, 2021.



As we prepare to return to church, we need volunteers to sign up for AED/CPR training. If interested, please call the church at 202.635.2883



Please remember to complete the Congregational COVID-19 survey. This survey is an opportunity to provide honest feedback about our reopening the church. Deadline has been extended to July 30th.

Bethesda Baptist Church

Sunday, July 11, 2021 - Report of Visitation of the Sick and Shut-in

Please submit your report to the church office.

Name _____

Date _____

	Sis. Sharon Ashaka	1216 Firth of Lorne Circle, Ft. Washington, MD 24744 (240.493.6420)
	Sis. Muriel Atkins	13903 Glenlivet Grove, Laurel, MD 20707 (301.490.6410)
*	Sis. Mary Autery	Carroll Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 725 Buchanan Street NE, Rm #249, Washington, DC 20017
	Sis. Bonita Banks	6142 Sligo Mill Court Road, NE, Washington, DC 20011
	Sis. Janie Boone	1080 Mt. Olivet Road, NE, Apt 21, Washington, DC 20002 (202- 526-1948)
	Bro. Melvin & Sis. Della Branch	16010 Excalibur Road, D219, Bowie, MD 20716 (301-805-5808)
	Dea. Marshall Brown	3943 M.L. King Jr. Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC 20032 (202-561-0439)
*	Sis. Christine Calhoun	7409 Wilhelm Drive, Lanham, MD 20706 (301-552-2266)
@	Bro. Alfred Coates, Sr.	Lisner L. D. Hurt Home Nursing Home, 5425 Western Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20015 (202-966-6667) ext. 3312 (call and leave message)
	Sis. Lillie Cook	10323 Sea Pines Drive, Mitchellville, MD 20721 (301-808-3841)
@	Dea. Arthur Dixon	702 Etna Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 (301-324-8135)
@	Bro. Norman Fisher	7119 Lois Lane, Lanham, MD 20706 (301-577-5883)
	Sis. Virginia E. Hawkins	Current address unknown
	Sis. Rose Holbert	9644 Saybrooke Drive, Bristow, VA 20136 (571-361-3937)
	Sis. Muriel Howard	HCR Manor Nursing Home, 8700 Jones Mill Road #5, Chevy Chase, MD 20815 (Contact Porsha at 202-725-4450 or email: porscha.h@gmail.com)
	Sis. Frances O. McCannon	4300 13 th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017 (202-529-2291)
	Sis. Edie McFadden	1348 Spring Road, NW, Washington, DC 20010 (202-722-1659)
@	Sis. Angela Moore	8509 Bates Drive, Bowie, MD 20720-4477 (301-809-5813)
	Bro. Willie Pope	41 Brandywine Street, SW, Washington, DC 20032 (202-563-7246)
	Sis. LaWanda Prather	1925 Capitol Avenue, NE, Unit B, Washington, DC 20002 (202-832-1917)
	Sis. Geraldine Robinson	5618 Onslow Way, Capitol Heights, MD 20743 (301-669-9472)
	Sis. Jonetha Robinson	Current address unknown
	Bro. Willie Russell	Victory Centre Supportive living and Senior Apartments, 1370 Ring Road, Room 113, Calumet, Illinois 60409 (202-389-7094)
***	Sis. Mittie Scott	c/o Cathy Holman, 4703 Bennett Avenue, Suitland, MD 20746
	Sis. Doris L. Smith	500 North Harry S Truman Dr., Apt. 218, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 (301- 456-2283)
	Sis. Viola Stith	Current address unknown
*	Dea. C. D. Thompson	708 Othman Drive, Ft. Washington, MD 20744 (301-292-4483)
	Sis. Annie White	3298 Ft. Lincoln Drive #506, Washington, DC 20018 (202-340-1089)

I/We called

I/We visited

I/ We sent cards to: _____

He/She _____ Seems to be quite ill.

He/She _____ Expects to return home soon.

He/She _____ Wishes no visitors at present time.

He/She _____ Expressed thanks for our prayers and visit.

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WOW! WHAT A YEAR!!

IT IS TIME FOR A FELLOWSHIP AT THE PARK!!

**THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY INVITES YOU
ALL OF YOU**

TO ATTEND A FELLOWSHIP AT THE PARK

SATURDAY, JULY 24, 2021

11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

THE ARBORETUM

24th & R Streets, NE, off of Bladensburg Road NE
B.Y.O.L. (bring your own lunch)

GAMES

PRIZES

From Northwest Washington: Follow New York Avenue east to the intersection of Bladensburg Road. Turn right (south) onto Bladensburg Road and go 4 blocks to R Street. Make a left on R Street and continue 2 blocks to the Arboretum gates.

From the Maryland suburbs: Take the Capital Beltway (I-495/I-95) to exit 22B towards Washington. Follow the Baltimore Washington Parkway approximately 7 miles to New York Avenue. Get in your left lane. You will approach the intersection of Bladensburg Road where only the two left lanes turn onto Bladensburg Road. Make the left onto Bladensburg Road and go 4 blocks to R Street. Make a left on R Street and continue 2 blocks to the Arboretum gates.

Upon entering the gate at the Arboretum, turn right towards the gift shop; once you pass the gift shop stay on that road all the way to the end,

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

RAIN DATE: AUGUST 21, 2021