



Covenant Partner News

Sunday, September 17, 2023

Volume 3

Issue 38

Message From Evangelistic Outreach

(Excerpt from EVANTELL.org Blog by Larry Moyer, August 4, 2023)

How Can I Share the Gospel When I feel Like a Hypocrite?

“How can I share my faith when I feel guilty about my own struggles in the Christian life – when I feel like a hypocrite?” God can do wonders in and through us when we admit that we are not the people He wants us to be and with His help are willing to change. The following is biblically based counsel, that I hope and pray is an encouragement to you.

Honesty about where we are honors the Lord and enables Him to help us.

Psalms 66:18 says, “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.” With that in mind, we can come to Him, acknowledge the hypocritical life we have lived and ask for His forgiveness. That honest confession of our waywardness is all God needs to change us and enable us to be used by Him.

Perfect people do not share the gospel, only sinners do.

If you wait until your life is what it ought to be, you will probably never share the gospel. Who of us on any given day would say that our lives have been everything He wanted them to be? ‘Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.’ (Psalms 139:23-24)

Unbelievers are not turned off by Christians whose lives are perfect, but by Christians who act like they are.

*They need to know that we are included in **Isaiah 53:6**, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way...” We may often get the attention of an unbeliever when we share our own brokenness about our own sin and our gratitude for His forgiveness.*

Message From Evangelistic Outreach continued:

It does not take two days to get things right with the Lord; it takes closer to two minutes.

The importance of living a life that honors the Lord cannot be overstated. (Psalm 66:18) As you approach a person who has not met the Lord, ask God to forgive you for things in your heart and life that are not right with Him, and ask Him to use you. It is a brokenness of heart that God honors.

If you present the gospel clearly, you are not presenting a perfect Christian. Instead, you are presenting a perfect Savior.

So how can you present the gospel when you feel like a hypocrite?

It is not where you are that matters. It is the direction in which you are headed. Take these five ideas, make them part of your life, and utter a simple prayer, "Use me as a sinner saved by grace to tell people about You, my perfect Savior."

| BETHESDA ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 | | |
|--|--|----------------|
| Sunday School | Prayer Meeting | No Bible Study |
| Men (5) | Tuesday (23) | Tuesday (0) |
| Women (11) | PRAYER FOCUS: <i>PROMISES ABOUT BEING GOD'S WITNESSES</i> 1) My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up. Psalm 5:3 2) Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. 3) The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon him in truth Psalm 145:18. 4) The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore, my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him. Psalm 28:7. 5) I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety Psalm 4:8. 6) Ask God to help us to understand your will for Bethesda as well as our own individual lives. Pray for the repair of Bethesda's roof and storm damage repairs. 7) Pray for our sick & shut-in and those asking for prayers and other expressions of compassion and comfort. (Hebrews 4:16) | Thursday (0) |
| Phone Line (6) | | |
| Children (2) | | |

On Prayer by James Banks

(A Pastor and Writer for the Daily Bread)

Now sometimes we might mistakenly think that prayer has something to do with skill. Sometimes you hear someone who is very well meaning say “I don’t have the Spiritual gift of prayer.” But did you know that of all the spiritual gifts listed in Scripture, prayer is not among them? And there’s an excellent reason for that. Prayer is meant for all of us. “Why Pray?” “Because you prayed!” “Bend down, O LORD, and listen!” Isaiah 36 and 37. That doesn’t mean things will go our way every time we pray, but if we learn to pray proactively---making prayer our “first resort” and not “a last resort” ---we will or may see God do breathtaking things. He wants us to help us lift our eyes above our circumstances so that we can catch a glimpse of His goodness and love. He wants us to pray so that we will get to know Him---and that really is the best part about prayer. True prayer is about so much more than just request or answers---it’s about a relationship with the One who will love and sustain us even when the answers don’t seem to come.

ODBU.org/SF120 is worth reading on prayer. Listen to his lecture on “Why Pray” by James Banks.

- Why Pray
- Why Not Ask?
- When You Don’t know What to Say
- Obstacles to Prayer
- Praying for Others
- Prayer and Fasting
- What about “Unanswered” Prayer
- Persevering in Prayer
- Living a Prayer-Filled Life
(Course Completion)

RECURRING EVENTS

Hour of Power & Bible Study

Each Tuesday at 6:00pm followed by *Tuesday Bible Study will resume September 26.*

Bible Study at 7:00pm via ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83096366206?pwd=J7wZ8bwAcBA1snP5SgRuYhW4E2DsU.1>

Meeting ID: 830 9636 6206

Passcode: 199366

To use your cell phone or land line, please dial: 1. 301. 715. 8592

Meeting ID: 830 9636 6206#; Passcode: 199366#

We encourage all members to submit prayer requests as the Holy Spirit leads by 12:00 Noon on Monday.

Men's Prayer Hour

Each Wednesday at 10:00pm via conference call:

1.717.908.1972; Access 875378#

Women's Prayer Hour

Each 4th Saturday at 9:00am via conference call:

1.605.313.5143; Access code 654522#

Questions and Answers-

Held each 4th Sunday at 6:00pm via conference call:

1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

Please submit your questions *today* by email to: SoulCare@BethesdaWeb.org or in Q&A box located on the table outside of the church office.

Bible Study *Thursday Bible Study will resume September 28.*

Each Thursday at 12:00 Noon via conference call:

1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

THIS WEEK EVENTS

Monday, September 18

5:00pm Missionary Ministry Meeting via conference call:

1.717.908.1972; Access 875378#

7:00pm Women's Ministry Planning Meeting via conference call:

1.605.313.5143; Access code 654522#

Thursday, September 21

6:30pm Christian Education Meeting via conference call:

1.717.908.1972; Access 875378#

Friday, September 22

6:00am – 6:00pm Corporate Day of Prayer and Fasting

Saturday, September 23

9:00am Women's Ministry Book Review – Part 2 "Fervent by Priscilla Shirer"

11:30am Combined Choir Rehearsal, Room 120

11:30am Flower Guild Ministry Meeting

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOSES – SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE LANCASTER, PA – SEPTEMBER 28

The time for our Fellowship Excursion to see the production of Moses at The Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, Pennsylvania is upon us. Please stop by the Church's administrative office to pick up the Fact Sheet and a confidential Emergency Form with specific instruction for completing the form on Sunday, September 17, 2023, following the worship service. We are excited about this opportunity to experience the fellowship. Continue to pray for God's protection and traveling mercies.

REPORT ON THE CHURCH FLOOD

Numerous communities across Ward 5 experienced flooding after the August 14, 2023 rainfall, with areas surrounding Rhode Island Ave N.E. and Mt. Olivet Road N.E. most impacted. This is an excerpt of the incident report conducted by Ward 5 Councilmember Zachary Parker which was sent to us on Friday, August 25, 2023. Mr. Parker reported he has requested information from and met with the leaders of agencies with primary responsibility for emergency preparedness, flood mitigation, and emergency response, including D.C. Water; the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE); the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA); the Office of Unified Communications (OUC); the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (FEMS); and the Department of Buildings (DOB). The storm affected both Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church, Bethesda Baptist Church and other businesses and residents. Preliminary responses have been received from DC Water. The Northeast Boundary Tunnel is part of the Anacostia Tunnel System designed to replace the tunnel and drainage system erected during the 1800's. The additional capacity provided by this tunnel will help alleviate flooding in the future. According to DC Water, while not a contractual date, the current anticipated date for completion of the Northeast Boundary Tunnel (NEBT) is September 30th, 2023. We intend to have further conversations with our Councilman, DC Water, the Mayor's Office, and District officials regarding a remedy for the damages we have sustained. Plans are underway to make the necessary repairs. In the meantime, we will continue to put our trust in God alone and encourage each of you to continue to be prayerful and faithful in building God's Kingdom. We will keep the congregation informed of further developments.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS Continued:

BIBLE STUDY

This fall's bible study focusses on "The Acts of the Holy Spirit" in the early work of the church. We will study the book of Acts and will begin on Tuesday September 26 at 7 PM and Thursday September 28 at 12 Noon. In addition to the Bible, we will use a study book from Dr. Henry Blackaby entitled, Encounters with God, Acts Small Group Bible Study. The study book is available on Amazon and costs \$10 and will provide an explanation and interpretation of scripture, a story that illustrates the passage in focus, other Bible verses related to the theme, questions for reflection and suggestions for application in everyday life. You can either order the book online or notify the church office if you would like the church to order. You can prepare for the first few lessons by reading Acts 1-8. Thank you.

MINISTRY MAILBOX

All ministry heads or secretaries, please remember to check your mailbox.

WALK WITH THE DOC

Bethesda has been invited by Phronie Jackson, PhD (former member of Bethesda) to join she and Dr. Patricia Davidson (Cardiologist and Hypertension Specialist at the Washington Hospital Center) at 9 AM on the first Saturday of each month starting August 5 at the National Arboretum for "Walk with the Doc." According to the American Heart Association, walking has the lowest dropout rate of any physical activity. Think it doesn't do any good? Think again. Walking is low impact; easier on the joints than running. It is safe – with a doctor's okay – for people with orthopedic ailments, heart conditions, and those who are more than 20% overweight. In addition, research has shown that you could gain two hours of life for each hour of regular exercise! That quick stroll around the block seems a little more worthwhile now, doesn't it? Walk with a Doc is a walking program for everyone interested in taking steps for a healthier lifestyle. What better way to start your weekend than on your feet making strides to help your heart and improving your general health to live longer! While you walk at your own pace, you'll have the opportunity to have questions answered by local physicians. **Walk Location:** National Arboretum – 3501 New York Ave, NE (Meet in front of the visitors' center close to the R Street entrance)

ADMINISTRATIVE CORNER

ROOF REPLACEMENT FUND

We have established a goal of raising \$62,000 over the next 12- months for replacement of the church's roof Section M. How will we do this? By God's grace, starting in July we are asking each member to give an extra \$62 per month or \$15.50 per week to the church's Building Maintenance Fund. If 100 members do this on a regular monthly basis over the course of 1-year, we will raise the \$62,000 necessary to finance the first phase of roof repairs. Please use the special "Roof Replacement" envelopes for this purpose. These envelopes are available on the table outside of the church office and Sanctuary vestibule. Please note, you can also give online via PayPal thru our secured website, <http://www.bethesdaweb.org>. Just click on "giving" then click the drop-down arrow to where it says, "building offering." As a reminder, this offering should be in addition and not in lieu of your regular tithes and offerings. Thank you in advance for your faithful giving, Bethesda!

"With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."
Mark 10:27

IT SUPPORT MINISTRY

Dear Ministry Leaders,

As we continue to promote our church events, we want to make sure that we are doing so in the most effective and efficient way possible. To help us achieve this, we are introducing a new form that will allow you to upload flyers for your events and have them posted on our social media platforms.

Please use the following form to submit your promotional materials:

<https://form.jotform.com/bbcitsupport/ministry-submit-form>

Please ensure that you submit any promotional flyers at least one week in advance of your event to allow enough time for us to post them.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us spread the word about our events. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

BBC IT Support Ministry

MINISTRY LEADERS

If you would like to hold your ministry meetings or events on Zoom, please contact Sister Bobbie Taylor at 202.635.2883 or submit your request by email: btaylor@bethesdaweb.org