



The Witness

April/May 2015

Volume 42 Issue 3

**Saturday, April 25
7:00 PM**

Featuring...

The WBC Worship Team

**A love offering will be taken
to benefit the Macaty Project - Haiti**

**WORSHIP
CONCERT**



Westminster Baptist Church
354 Crest Lane, Westminster, MD 21157
PH: 410-848-6330
WEB: westminster-baptist-church.org



Friends at Westminster Baptist Church,

Thank you for the love, prayers support and beautiful arrangement during our time of sorrow. Love, *Mary, Alex & Nat Glover*

Thank You...Thank You...Thank You

Last month's successful hip replacement surgery eliminated some long suffering pain and limp, down my left leg. Getting through the rehabilitation and physical therapy has certainly been quite a blessing, due to all of the well-wishes from our church family, especially Richard and Loretta Hill, Cindy Bryson and Barbara Lambert. Even Pastor Larry's visit finding me sitting in a chair, the afternoon after surgery, perked me up tremendously. I want to thank you all for the loving, kind words, cards and phone calls I received. It certainly was a blessing. *Steve Sullivan*



Testimony Corner, begun in February 2014, has published ten true stories from members of our congregation. Each was different, yet they all shared common themes. For instance, each author was humble enough to acknowledge a need that was beyond his/her ability to meet and courageous enough to share their situation with us (see Psalm 145:4), as a source of encouragement (Hebrews 3:13). Each asked God for help (see Psalm 59:16), got it and praised Him for His faithfulness. In no case was the writer the hero, God was (see Psalm 115:1). Since each answer was beyond coincidence, some would use the term, "Miracle."

Some of you may feel that your "Miracles" aren't spiritual enough to write about. If you think this, allow me to share a true story about a "small" answer to prayer and its consequences once it was shared.

Valerie, age 6 wanted to take ballet lessons. Her parents approved but their family was living on a very tight budget, one that did not allow for the expensive ballet shoes and lessons too. A neighbor gave Valerie a tutu. Allan and Heidi, her parents, bought one pair of leotards. A few days later, they brought their need to the Lord in their daily devotions. Two weeks went by. They went to visit her parents some 47 miles away and while there, they explored a multi-family yard sale and found, tucked away in the back corner of a garage, a new pair of ballet shoes, Valerie's size, still in the original box and priced low enough for Valerie's parent to be able to afford to buy them. The story could stop there, but it went on. When they returned home, Heidi was sharing the story with a skeptical neighbor. The story opened the way for further dialogue.

Do you have a story? Do you want help in writing it? I'll be glad to help. Guidelines are available at the Welcome Center.

In Christ, *Alex Jones*

New & Prospective Member's Class / Salt & Light Class on Evangelism

Saturday, April 18, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

(Lunch will be provided and childcare is available upon request)

***Call the Church Office to sign up before Wednesday, April 15**





Theological and Doctrinal Survey (Part 1)

This is the first in a series of articles about the Doctrinal and Theological Survey that was recently conducted at Westminster Baptist Church.

We had received approximately 100 completed surveys. Analyzing all the results will take some time. However, this article will explain more fully the reasons the survey was conducted and dispel any concerns that this church is changing its doctrinal stance.

That second point is easy to address. No. The church staff is not changing or even contemplating changing the doctrinal stance of Westminster Baptist Church. We will remain Bible-believing, Bible-preaching, and Bible-teaching Southern Baptist! I hope that quells any concerns some of you may have.

The first point, however, requires a lengthier explanation.

As many of you may recall, we briefly explain the survey when it was introduced during a “ministry moment.” However, bad weather played havoc with attendance, and a lot of you never heard about the survey until you found it inside your bulletin one Sunday morning.

About a year ago, Florida-based Ligonier Ministries commissioned LifeWay Research to conduct a nationwide survey of the theological understanding of Americans, providing comparisons between (a) Christian church goers and the unchurched and (b) Evangelicals and non-Evangelicals. Ligonier Ministries was founded by R.C. Sproul, whose name may be familiar to some of you. Sproul is a Reformed theologian with a Calvinist leaning. LifeWay is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, which for the most part does not subscribe to Calvinist theology.

Anecdotal evidence has shown a declining theological understanding in America, both inside and outside of the church. Where that gets really serious is when people and/or churches move from primary Christian doctrine to non-biblical doctrine. That shift can be summarized by the Ligonier-LifeWay survey’s documenting that more and more Christians are shifting from a biblical world view to a secular world view.

So what are we to make of the state of theology in America? As the chairman of Ligonier Ministries put it: “What comes screaming through this survey is the pervasive influence of humanism.” That even applies, although to a lesser degree, to Evangelicals who took the survey.

C. S. Lewis said, “If you do not listen to theology, that will not mean that you have no ideas about God. It will mean that you will have a lot of wrong ones.”

The Ligonier-LifeWay survey says he’s right.

“Americans like God, Christ, and even the Bible.

But we like those things on our own terms

and according to our own tastes.”

In both surveys, questions focused on several key doctrinal areas in order to determine where Americans differ from historic and orthodox views. Those areas were beliefs about: (1) God; (2) goodness and sin; (3) salvation and religious texts; (4) heaven and hell; (5) the Church; and (6) authority.

The question facing us is “What is the state of theology at Westminster Baptist Church?” Can we identify our strengths and our weaknesses? How do we “treat” any pervasive weaknesses?

In future *Witness* articles, we will look at the questions and responses in more detail and compare our responses to those on the national survey.

In the meantime, if you want to read more about the Ligonier-LifeWay survey, simply do an internet search for “The State of Theology,” “Ligonier Ministries,” or “LifeWay.” There is even a 7-minute video on YouTube.

—The Apologetics Ministry Team

J. Reger, L. Johnson, A. Jones,

R. Poteat, & Pastor Larry Steen

Hope Has Sprung

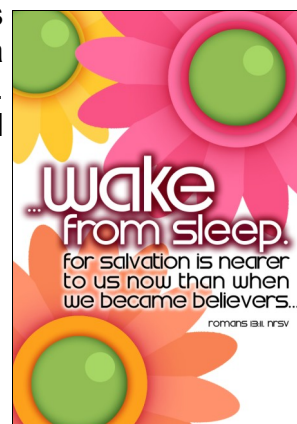
For the first time in quite a while it is beautiful outside. As I write the warm sun bears down starting to erase the white flaky remnants we have from this long and hard winter. Like many people I love summer with the crack of bats, the smell of a Wisconsin bratwurst, and the refreshing feel of a lake or pool. Winter on the other hand is an annoyance to me in anything other than small doses. These facts are exactly why the first warm day has always filled me with hope; it is a sign of new life springing forth out of winter's gloom. The past few years I have come to see spring as an illustration of the Christian life heading from the darkness of winter into the joy of summer.

C.S. Lewis aptly portrayed the fallen world as a world in constant winter in his *Chronicles of Narnia* series. In the beginning God made everything perfect and beautiful but when Eve took that first bite of the forbidden fruit that perfection is corrupted with rot and death. Men became separated from God under judgment that day in Eden and much like the barren trees and bitter cold of winter, the fall brought misery and pain. In certain parts of the planet the only creatures to be seen in winter are scavengers who survive off of finding any creature from the summer and destroying it; in Eden we became those scavengers and evil humanity began to make this fallen world worse and worse perpetually to this day. Apart from Christ, the winter would only get colder and colder as none of us would ever be able to save ourselves.

It is wonderful to celebrate the birth of Christ in the heart of winter, for the incarnation is a tale of how God entered into humanities dark winter and became the only person able to earn salvation. On the cross Jesus took on that winter as he stood in our place and took the punishment that we deserve in our place. Jesus rose from the dead in spring and his resurrection would point to a new and better eternal summer that he had won for us. Even though Jesus deserved summer for himself, he took on the coldest winter so that we might receive the beautiful summer only he deserves as he stood condemned in our place and now we stand counted with his righteousness. When we die as Christians we will enter into something greater than even Eden; God has saved us to return to the summer so long lost.

It is easy to realize that the Christian life is anything but that glorious summer we await. Though we await the summer we are born again unto, we have not fully seen our salvation for this life's winter and death. We are not fully saved yet in this Christian life, we still experience the pains and judgment on this fallen world. As many theologians would say; though we have been saved when we were born again, we are continuing to be saved, and one day we will be finally saved. The Christian life is a sample of the warmth of summer and it is the breaking away from life's dead winter; the life of a Christian is the spring of life. That moment we first come to Christ is like the first warm day of the year; starting that day things begin to look more and more like summer and less and less like winter. Growth in the Christian life moves us forward to our heavenly summer home and our lives will progressively appear like that beautiful summer even amidst the darkness and death. In the Christian life it would not be accurate to say everything is repaired from the fall, but it is getting better as the Holy Spirit moves us towards our great Canaan. Spring is kind of a diet Summer and so this Christian life may have suffering but it is a diet version of God's great kingdom in the new heavens and new earth. Christians have hope and non-Christians be prepared for before long spring will make way into summer and this life of pain and suffering will be no more.

Pastor Tony





Women of Grace Fellowship Event

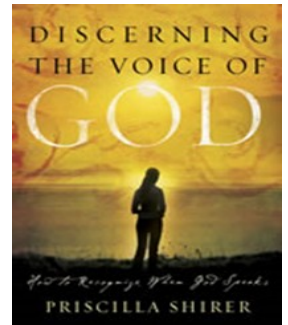
Ladies, look around you on Sunday mornings. Do you know all the faces of those attending your worship service, not to mention the other service? Now is your chance to make some new acquaintances. Our Women of Grace dining group, Cuisine Queens, invites you to a "Get Connected" lunch at Fratelli's on Saturday, April 11, 12:00 - 2:00 pm. They have delicious lunch entrees with generous portions and moderate prices. Fratelli's Restaurant is located at 2315A Hanover Pike in Hampstead. Please contact Cindy Bryson at 410-967-6765 by Wednesday, April 8th, if you would like to attend.

Ministry Opportunity

We have a wonderful opportunity to put our faith into action. Please join us at the Willet 20,000 Meal Packing Event to be held at our church on Saturday, May 30, 9:00-11:00 am. We will be worshipping through song and packing meals for hungry children living in poverty. This event supports the band's 1 Million Meal School Feeding Program Initiative in partnership with *Stop Hunger Now* and *New Mission Systems International*. As a special outreach, we have invited the young ladies of New Life for Girls to serve alongside us. Afterwards, at 11:30 am -1:00 pm, we will enjoy a fellowship lunch with the girls and their staff members. Look for further details and a sign-up sheet at the Women of Grace table.

Women of Grace Home Bible Studies

Ladies, are there Bible studies we have held in recent months that interested you, but you were unable to attend? Consider hosting a Bible study in your home and inviting your family, friends, and neighbors. Some women prefer the relaxed, casual atmosphere of a home study. It's a great way to build relationships and share your faith with others. Please contact Nancy Rictor or Cindy Bryson to discuss available studies and obtaining needed study materials.



Women's Prayer Group

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16

With so many cares on our hearts, we have the privilege of carrying everything to God in prayer, thanking Him for His mercy and praising Him for His many blessings. We invite you to join our women's prayer group that meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at 10:00-11:30 am at Ninette LeGates' home. Her address is 663 Rising Dr. in Westminster. Spring is finally here, but in case of inclement weather, we will follow the Carroll County school schedule. If schools are delayed or closed, we will not meet.



All women in our church are invited to attend. You need not commit to each Friday. You can come to pray, or you can come for someone to pray for you. You may also place your specific prayer concerns in the Prayer Request box on the Women of Grace table, and we will lift them up in prayer. For more information, please contact Ninette at 410 848-1636.



When new members join our church, they enrich the fellowship and functionality of our body of believers as we serve our Lord together. May we warmly welcome and encourage each one.

Earl and Shirley Miller, who live in Taneytown, have transferred their memberships from Taneytown Baptist Church. Earl is a retired truck driver and has recently worked for Wal-Mart. Shirley is retired from working in retail, including fifteen years with Wal-Mart. Their hobbies are spending time with their grandchildren and camping, and they belong to a resort in the Fredericksburg area. Earl also follows NASCAR and works on teaming with the Kairos Prison Ministry. They have three daughters, whose names are Anna, Cassandra, and April, and they have five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Pete Dickens lives in Mount Airy and has transferred his membership from Mount Airy Baptist Church. His children's names are Joseph and Kimberly. Before retirement, he was employed in research and development with Black and Decker. His hobbies are shooting rifles and pistols, fishing, and working on old Camaro cars.

Mike and Sarah Burros have transferred their memberships from Taneytown Baptist Church. Their son, Brandon, is a junior at Messiah College. Sarah is from South Korea, where she lived until her family moved to the US when she was four years old. Now working as a homemaker, she previously worked as an operating room nurse for both Johns Hopkins Hospital and Carroll Hospital Center. She is involved in Christian ministry volunteer work and enjoys scrap-booking. Mike works in DC as a thermal plasma technician, and his interests are door to door soul-winning and motorcycle riding. Originally from Knoxville, Tennessee, he grew up in Towson.

Megan Schmitt, whose parents are Joe and Suna Zellers, experienced the wonder of baptism on December 14. Her family also includes siblings Virginia, Olivia, Ralph, and Michael, and they have two cats and a dog. She is in the ninth grade at Winters Mill High School and enjoys photography, field hockey, involvement in Junior ROTC, and hanging out with her friends at church.

Gina Sullivan, who followed the Lord in baptism on January 11, is the daughter of Dale and Jennifer, and the sister of Brooke and Grant. She is in the third grade at Mechanicsville Elementary School, and her favorite subject is math. She also likes gymnastics, basketball, softball, skiing, and drawing. Her favorite color is red.

Zach and Hannah Fields, whose parents are Karrie and John Myers, have an adult sister named Stephanie. They had the special blessing of being baptized on March 15, their ninth birthday. Zach says that it was really exciting getting baptized and seeing all those people there. They are in the third grade. Zach likes gym and reading and has a phenomenal ability to memorize information, including Scriptures. Hannah enjoys math, reading, gardening, and making crafts and wants to be a builder when she grows up. Both attend Awana, and this year Zach played Upwards Basketball. Zach has a pet sugar glider that came from the state fair, and he can tell you all about it. The family also has twin puppies and a dog named Turbo.

Chris and Charlene Schreiner experienced the joy of being baptized on March 15. Charlene moved here from the Philippines in 2013, and she and Chris were married by Pastor Larry last year. Charlene's interests are FaceBook, sewing, and cooking. They both enjoy swimming, movies, and going out for dinner. Chris is an account conversion specialist for an alarm company. He has two sons, Joshua and Christopher, and two grandchildren named Kaden and Amiyah.

Submitted by Ninette LeGates

Mission Moments

I know everyone is looking forward to Spring. A time of new beginnings. A time to remember what our Lord did for us. Easter is a wonderful time for Christians. We filled 25 Easter baskets for Shepherd's Staff.

Our Women on Mission group, of which all women of the church are invited, is held on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am, at the Church. We will be doing some ministry activities at these meetings. In April, we will be starting to make dresses out of pillow cases. These will then be sent to Haiti.

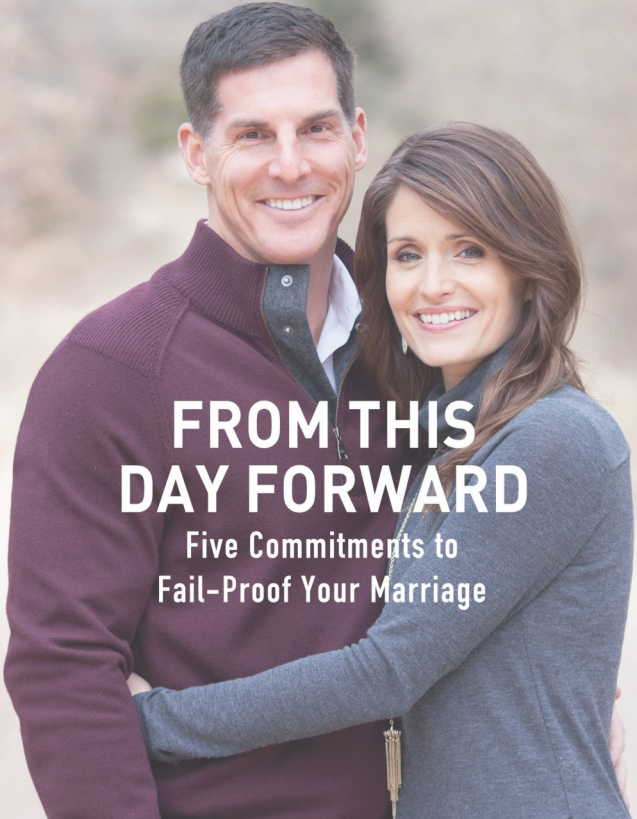
During the month of April, we will be collecting items for the Shepherd's Staff Blessing Closet. During March because of snow we didn't collect these items which go to help many people in our community. We are collecting: powdered laundry detergent, dish detergent, deodorant, soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, disposal diapers (baby and adult sizes). Place donated items in the Mission Barrel located in the Sanctuary Lobby.

Mary Reeb, Mission Director

Marriage Class

New York Times Bestselling Author

CRAIG & AMY GROESCHEL



FROM THIS DAY FORWARD

Five Commitments to
Fail-Proof Your Marriage

Begins Sunday, May 3
7:00 - 8:30 pm (Room 107)

ChildFund[®] International PRESENTS

The 2015 searchlight

worship & meal packing

SPRING TOUR



FEATURING ACOUSTIC WORSHIP BY:



AVAILABLE AT ALL SHOWS

TRUTH MOGAMI cuthangar SUNDAY DANCING 100% EARS JEFF ALDER iRig Sustain iKlip

Meal Packing Event

Saturday, May 30, 9:00 - 11:00 am

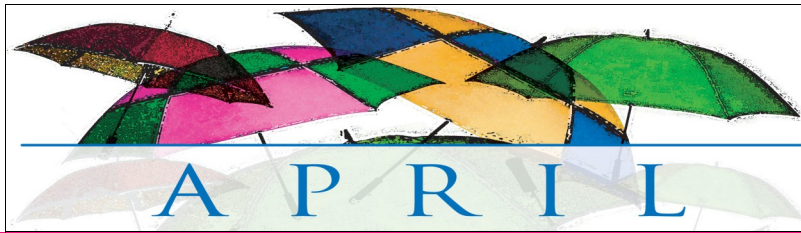
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.WILLETONLINE.COM

Willet is a ministry of:
New Mission Systems International





July 19-24, 2015, to Moorhead City, NC. Sign up by May 3, with a \$50 deposit to hold your reservation.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00am Nursing Home 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	2 9:30am WOG Bible Study Noon Silver Sages Luncheon 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	3	4 10:00am Easter Celebration & Egg Hunt 
 5 Lord's Supper 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary	6 7:00pm Praise Team	7 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	8 10:00am Nursing Home 6:00pm Children's Choir; Awana Dinner 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	9 9:30am WOG Bible Study Noon Silver Sages Luncheon 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study; WOG Bible Study	10 10:00am WOG Prayer Ministry	11 10:00am Adult Sunday School Teacher Mtg
12 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Blood Pressure 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir	13 7:00pm Praise Team; Yth Leader Mtg; Awana Leader Mtg	14 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast	15 10:00am Nursing Home 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	16 9:30am WOG Bible Study 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study; WOG Bible Study	17	18 9:00am New & Prospective Member's Class/Salt & Light 2:00pm Bridal Shower (Officer/Knorr)
19 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Combined Worship Service Noon Spaghetti Dinner/ Auction 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir	20 7:00pm Praise Team	21 7:00pm Admin Team Meeting	22 10:00am Nursing Home 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	23 9:30am WOG Bible Study 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study; WOG Bible Study	24 10:00am WOG Prayer Ministry 6:30pm Young Married Couple's Life Group	25 10:00am Christian Estate Planning 7:00pm Worship Concert
26 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir 7:00pm Together in Prayer Service	27 7:00pm Praise Team	28 10:00am GROW	29 10:00am Nursing Home 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	30 9:30am WOG Bible Study 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study; WOG Bible Study		

Spaghetti Dinner & Auction Sunday, April 19, Noon

Cost: \$5









***Proceeds to benefit
Family Mission Trip in July**

**Together in Prayer Service
Sunday, April 26
7:00 pm**

Join un for this special
time of prayer as we lift
up the needs of our
church family, nation
and world.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10:00am Shepherd's Table; WOG Prayer Ministry 6:30pm Young Adult Life Group	2 8:00am 318 Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:00am W.I.S.E. Fellowship
3 Lord's Supper 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir 7:00pm Marriage Class	4 7:00pm Praise Team	5 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting	6 10:00am Nursing Home 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	7 Noon Silver Sages' Luncheon 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	8	9 
 10 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir	11 7:00pm Praise Team; Yth Leader Mtg	12 8:30am Silver Sages' Breakfast	13 10:00am Nursing Home 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	14 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	15 10:00am WOG Prayer Ministry 6:30pm Young Adult Life Group	16
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24 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir	 25 7:00pm Praise Team CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	26 10:00am GROW	27 10:00am Nursing Home 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Awana; Preschool Choir 7:30pm Mission Friends	28 7:00pm 318 Men's Bible Study	29 6:30pm Young Married Couple's Life Group	30 9:00am Willet Meal Packing Event 11:00am WOG Luncheon
31 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir 7:00pm Marriage Class						

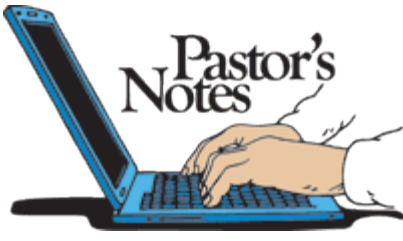
Christian Estate Planning Basics Seminar

Saturday, April 25
10:00 am - Noon

Bill Peacock, President of the Baptist Foundation of MD/DEL, will be with us to discuss Christian Estate Planning. Topics include: Why you need a will; making provision for children and other dependents; estate planning considerations. Please sign up at the Welcome Center for these two, one-hour seminars. The seminars are free of charge.



318 Men's
Prayer Breakfast
Saturday, May 2, 8:00am



Psalm 16:7-11 (NIV) ⁷ I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. ⁸ I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, ¹⁰ because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. ¹¹ You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

On Thursday mornings, I join several pastors in our community to pray for revival in our land. Before we pray, we spend time in fellowship and I must admit sometimes the laughter is uproarious, and is most therapeutic! Laughter is good for the soul!

A pastor I've never met, Steve Mayner, once wrote, "One of the reactions I get when I talk to people about giving one's life completely to God is that if they do, life will be boring! They think a 'devout' Christian means you have to walk around with a sad face all the time, never laughing at anything." Pastor Mayner and I both heartily disagree!

A lot of the seasonal Easter movies about Christ don't help do they? How many movies about Christ have you watched where He has always got this really serious look on his face and He never cracks a smile?

Like Pastor Mayner, one of my favorite scenes from the movie "The Passion of the Christ" is the flashback scene where Jesus is laughing and joking around with his mother. THAT is the Christ that we need to know more about.

Do some study of the Gospels, especially the cultural context in the original language of some of the parables, and you'll discover when Christ spoke some of those words they would have been taken more as a punch line than the solemn way we read them! (Matthew 7:3-6, 19:23-24, Luke 7:31-32, 11:1-13, 14:16-20, 18:1-5, etc.) I think Christ could have some fun, and those around him could too! (After all He and his disciples went to a wedding feast!)

Don't get me wrong... we all have had our fair share of challenges. We all face life's storms, and at those times it is great to know there is One who stands beside us who gives us peace and seriously hears our petitions. But sometimes even in the middle of the storm, a good laugh might be one of the most godly things you can do!

As Pastor Mayner says, "Laugh a little... it's OK, really!"

Pastor Larry

Steve Mayner is Executive Pastor and Pastor of Recovery at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Mechanicsburg, Pa.,

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