

Senior Heartbeat



TEMPLE
BAPTIST CHURCH
COME GATHER AROUND THE WORD

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Virus has widespread, lasting effects

By Dale Oden

Greetings from 437 Savannah Trace in Ruston, not the Church Office where I usually am.

None of us would ever have imagined that what is happening in our country and around the world would be going on today.

It has been something to be quarantined away from peo-

ple and activities that are so much a part of our daily lives. But as you have heard so often over these past few weeks, our God is faithful and He has us under His arms.

I trust you and our families are all all right. Our family is scattered but all are okay. We have missed one grandson's birthday and are not sure about our oldest

grandson's high school graduation.

We were planning to spend my birthday in Germany with 18 folks attending the Passion Play in Oberammergau. But the play has been postponed to 2022.

Of course, our weekly worship services, Sunday School, and Wednesday night activities have not met for

the past eight weeks.

We have missed our April luncheon and will miss our May luncheon as well. Hopefully, we will be able to have our Senior Summer Adult Bible Study at the end of August. Isn't all this unreal?

Please continue to pray daily for one another and stay safe. If you have a need please contact the church.

Aren't we grateful for the many ways that we have been able to worship on Sunday and other days of the week?

I am not "technologically" up on all

these various means of seeing our service and other activities but how wonderful that our services can be seen around the world.

Continue to pray that God will give wisdom to our leaders so that we will be able to get back together soon,

You are missed, and I look forward to the days we can be together again in person.

I know it will be different when we first start gathering again, but we want to take whatever measures are necessary to stay safe and healthy.

Magical can revives rabbit

Author unknown

A man was driving along the highway, and saw a rabbit hopping across the middle of the road. He swerved to avoid hitting the rabbit, but unfortunately the rabbit jumped in front of the car and was hit. The driver, being a sensitive man as well as an animal lover, pulled over to the side of the road, and got out to see what had become of the rabbit.

Much to his dismay, the rabbit was dead. The driver felt so awful, he began to cry. A woman driving down the highway saw the man crying on the side of the road and pulled over. She stepped out of her car and asked the man what was wrong.

"I feel terrible," he explained, "I accidentally hit this rabbit and killed it."

The woman told the man not to worry. She knew what to do. She went to her car trunk, and

pulled out a spray can. She walked over to the limp, dead rabbit, and sprayed the contents of the can onto the rabbit.

Miraculously the rabbit came to life, jumped up, waved it's paw at the two humans and hopped down the road. 50 meters away the rabbit stopped, turned around, waved and hopped down the road, another 50 meters, turned, waved and hopped another 50 meters. The man was astonished. He couldn't figure out what substance could be in the woman's spray can!!

He ran over to the woman and demanded, "What is in your spray can? What did you spray on that rabbit?"

The woman turned the can around so that the man could read the label. It said: "Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave."

—From Fred Benefield



from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
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You are not alone during a crisis

By Ann Clark

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

I was alone in the surgical waiting room of the hospital when the surgeon came out to tell me my husband had an inoperable brain tumor with only months left to live. I was in shock and wanted to reach out to someone but no one was available. Covering my face with trembling hands, I sobbed. "Help me, Lord" was all I remember saying.

I looked down at the Bible I held in my lap and suddenly a resulting assurance that God was with me comforted me through those terrible moments when I felt utterly alone. The Bible was open to Psalm 46. I began reading the passages and then I thanked the Lord when sup-

port began to trickle in — clergy, co-workers and friends bringing comfort and prayers. Still the calming awareness of God's presence I sensed in that first hour of lonely grieving, affirmed that God was readily and faithfully available wherever and whenever I needed help.

In Psalm 46, the psalmist proclaims God is our sanctuary, strength, and steadfast supporter (v. 1). When it feels as if we are surrounded by chaos or everything we thought was stable crashes down around us, we don't have to fear (vv. 2-3). God doesn't falter (vv. 4-7). His power is evident and effective (vv. 8-9). Our eternal Sustainer gives us confidence in His unchanging character (v. 10). The Lord, our secure stronghold, remains with us forever (v. 11).

God has created

His followers to prayerfully support and encourage one another. But God affirms He is always able and available. When we call on God, we can trust Him to keep His promises to provide for us. He will comfort us through His people as well as through His personal presence. Truly He is a God of all comfort.

Prayer: Holy Father, thank you that today we can rely on the promise that You are with us in every situation, supporting us through Your Holy Spirit. Thank You for reassuring us You're always accessible because You're always with us. Help us resist the pressure of panic, intimidation and wrong responses to our crisis by granting us supernatural power, love, and self-control. Help us to always have the courage we need to

keep going and to follow Your leading in our lives. Thank you for sending your people to help and comfort us and please open our eyes

and hearts to others so that we may provide the prayers, support and help for them in their time of need. In Jesus' name. Amen

Teach Me, My God and King

Teach me, my God and King,

In all things Thee to see,

And what I do in anything,

To do it as for Thee.

A man that looks on glass,

On it may stay his eye,

Or, if he pleaseth, through it pass,

And then the heav'n espy.

All may of Thee partake:

Nothing can be so mean

Which with this motive,

"For Thy sake,"

Will not grow bright and clean.

This is the famous stone

That turneth all to gold;

*For that which God doth touch and
own*

Cannot for less be told.

—George Herbert (1593-1633)

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays
1 Richard Moore
3 Sherry Jones
4 Carolyn Sumrall
5 Allen Lee
6 Elaine DeBerry
6 Deborah Sanders
6 Bill Whittenburg
8 Margaret
Thompson
10 Bodie Woods
11 John Mitchell

12 Vernaughn Scott
13 Linda Spivey
14 John Strozier
16 David Darland
16 Jan Grigsby
17 Don Mears
18 Margaret Farley
18 Rodney Johnson
18 Joan Minn
18 Janice Beasley-Irby
20 Donnie Parkman
21 Vicki Hogan

21 Drake Mills
21 Mary Frances Colvin
21 Donny Sanders
22 Hilda Grafton
23 Hilda Estes
25 Stanley Crawford
25 Gene Lueg
26 Buddy Terzia
27 Myrtis Orr
27 Connie Acklin
29 Leonard Faulkner

Anniversaries
3 Pat and Joann Barlow
(1954)
3 Debbie and Ronnie
Holloway (1971)
6 Mary Jane and Dick
Lewis (1956)
13 Myrtis and Virgil Orr
(1945)

'Ring of Grace' symbolizes forgiveness

By Ann Clark

"They ... twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head." Matthew 27:28-29

I read one time about a family's tradition of celebrating Easter. At their evening meal in the weeks leading up to Easter, they created a crown of thorns — with a piece of styrofoam formed into a ring and toothpicks.

Each day they would place a toothpick into the ring representing something they had done for which they were sorry and for which Christ had paid the penalty. That exercise signified to them how through their wrongdoings they were also guilty of placing that crown of thorns on His head and they, too, needed forgiveness.

On Easter morning, they celebrated this gift of forgiveness and new life by replacing the toothpicks with flowers. Each flower would release joy into their hearts. The sacrifice of Jesus had bought their forgiveness.

What joy, God had erased their sins and given freedom and life forever in Jesus. "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you." (Zachariah 3:4).

So many times we remember our sins and feel we must do something to earn God's forgiveness. But God has said it is by grace, not works, that

we are saved (Ephesians 2:8-9).

We may still feel sad about our past, but we need to trust His promise and believe His grace and forgiveness are real through faith in Jesus Christ. This news should lead us to thankfulness and assurance that when God forgives, He forgets.

Another beautiful story of the power of the cross was of a group of teenagers on a mission trip to Montego Bay, Jamaica. One young woman noticed a lonely looking elderly man at the end of this long meeting room they were in. He appeared to have little left in this world but a bed to sleep on — a bed from which he could not move because of his disability.

She was so moved by the helplessness she saw in him that she moved close and began to share with him. As she shared he seemed to perk up and asked her to go on. Responding to his interest, she explained the wonder of Jesus's sacrificial death for us.

He replied that was hard for him to understand, because he had no hope and no family and couldn't move from this bed. How could someone he'd never met really love him enough to die on a cross for him and his sins?

She told him more about Jesus — and then about the promise of heaven (including a new body) for all who believe. He asked her, "Will you dance with me up there?" She saw him begin to imagine himself free of his worn-out body and crippling limitations.

Then he said he wanted to trust this Jesus as his Savior, and she helped him pray a prayer of forgiveness and faith. When she asked him if she could get a picture with him, he replied, "If you will help me sit up. I'm a new man."

Praise God for the life-changing, hope-giving, available-to-all gospel of Jesus Christ! It offers new life for all who trust Him (Colossians 1:5, 23).

Prayer: Holy Father, we again stand in awe at the sacrifice of Jesus for us. We kneel in Your presence and with gratitude acknowledge what He did for us on the cross. Thank You for this new life we have now in Jesus. Thank you for our mission teams who are willing to "go and tell" this wonderful story of forgiveness and new life. Help us also be willing to share that hope of new life and forgiveness with others so they can be made new as well. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Jesus set example for rejoicing amid difficulties

What is the least-quoted saying of Jesus in the New Testament? Perhaps John 15:11 — "I have told you this so that My own joy may be in you and your joy may be complete." This saying doesn't fit into the sorrow and solemnity of Good Friday.

But Jesus says this at the Last Supper when he knows that he will soon be cursed and flogged, tortured, humiliated, pierced and crucified. In the

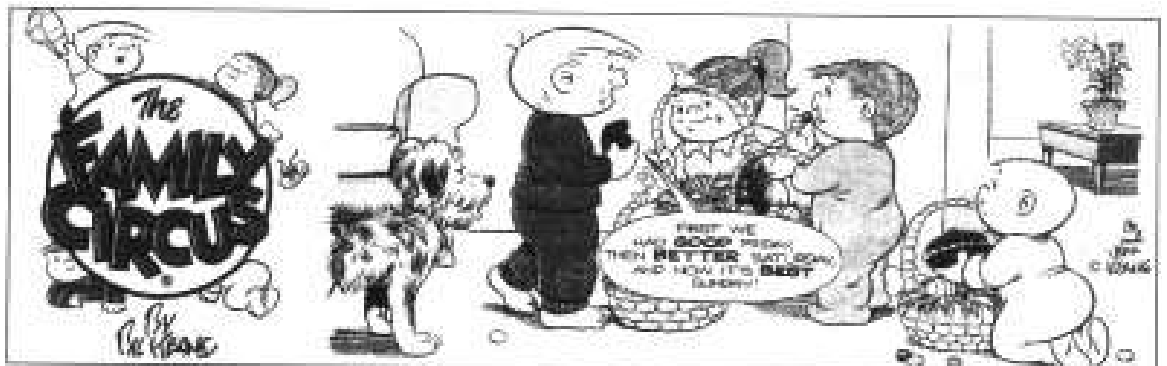
face of death, Jesus, even knowing that some of his own close friends doubted, denied, and betrayed him, talked about joy.

Who but the Messiah would talk about joy under such circumstances? Jesus knew what nobody else knew.

Years later, the Apostle Paul echoed Jesus when he declared that Christians, in all circumstances, should

"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, Rejoice." (Philippians 4).

—From *The Joyful Noiseletter*



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Congratulations!!!

May Birthdays

1 Billy Chandler	9 Donald Colvin	22 Fred Baragona
2 Joan Frazier	9 Bonnie Nolan	22 Betty Cox
3 Sandra Powell	10 June Young	22 Emily Moore
4 Janie Ainsworth	11 Mike Barmore	22 Bobby Sanders
4 Linda Hamner	12 Marilyn Gullatt	23 Robert Dawkins
6 Edna Smith	14 Ronnie Rodrigues	24 Johnie Echols
6 Leon Stamm	15 Ronnie Holloway	24 Sarabeth Ringle
6 Barbara Washington	17 Sue Gullatt	25 Nancy Collie
6 Greg Thomas	18 Betty Chandler	28 Jill Goulart
7 Rick Rogers	18 Pam Walpole	28 Dale Oden
9 Bruce Ayres	19 Susan Miller	30 Minette Cox

May Anniversaries

4 Linda and Bill Hamner (1962)	24 Margie and Robert Hearn (1959)
16 Minette and Bill Cox (1958)	25 Helen and Harold Shrell (1996)
21 Vera and Royce Watson (1952)	

If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary added to the lists published each month in Senior Heartbeat, please call the Church Office (255-3745).