



TRUE LIGHT

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ~ Psalm 119:105

January 3, 2021

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Worship:

8:45 a.m. (masked)

10:30 a.m. (masks optional)

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
573-293-5620

ELDERS

David Burleson
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David Carson
573-276-5567
Stan Dauck
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DEACONS

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Joe Watson
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"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalms 118:24

**We Welcome You
To All Of Our
Services**

PERSONAL MOUNTAINS

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done" (Matthew 21:21 NKJV).

Let's call them mountains. I'm talking about the challenges, difficulties, and trials of life that we all face. How do we handle them? One of the ways to handle them is to trust that God will remove them. For reasons that only God knows, that doesn't always happen.

A great example of a personal mountain that I didn't move can be seen in the life of the apostle Paul. Paul explains it this way:

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me (2 Corinthians 12:7-9).

There are too many people praying for mountains of difficulty to be removed, when what they really need to be praying, is for the courage to climb them. Running from hard things is one of our biggest problems.

Joyce Meyer, in her book *Approval Addiction*, says some really good things about this subject. She says, "There are too many people praying for mountains of difficulty to be removed, when what they really need to be praying, is for the courage to climb them. Running from hard things is one of our biggest problems."

None of us like stress and problems, but with the Lord's help we can learn to deal with them and become stronger. We can trust that He will be with us every step of the way. Jesus promised us that if we are about His will, *I am with you always, even to the end of the age* (Matthew 28:20). He may not remove our trial, but He will go "through" it with us.

The next time you face a mountain, pray that it will be removed. If it doesn't happen, believe that He will give you the strength to climb it and come out on the other side.

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance, and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us (Romans 5:1-5).

Mike Barres, www.heartlight.com

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

January 3 - Korey Adams
 January 4 - Morris Karnes
 Brenda Wheeler
 Janet Wood



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 7 - Matt & Katie Mayberry

CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Dry Spaghetti * Chili Mixes *
 Large Freezer Bags * Microwave
 Popcorn * Kidney Beans * Ranch style
 beans

Pick Up Date February 1

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Cereal * Crackers * Canned Spaghetti
 Sauce * Rice * Dried Beans
Monetary gifts also appreciated

CHOOSING TO CHANGE

When my son acquired a small robot, he had fun programming it to perform simple tasks. He could make it move forward, stop, and then retrace its steps. He could even get it to beep and replay recorded noises. The robot did exactly what my son told it to do. It never laughed spontaneously or veered off in an unplanned direction. It had no choice.

When God created humans, He didn't make robots. God made us in His image, and this means we can think, reason, and make decisions. We're able to choose between right and wrong. Even if we have made a habit of disobeying God, we can decide to redirect our lives.

When the ancient Israelites found themselves in trouble with God, He spoke to them through the prophet Ezekiel. Ezekiel said, "Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall....Get a new heart and a new spirit" (Ezek. 18:30-31).

This kind of change can begin with just one choice, empowered by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:13). It might mean saying no at a critical moment. No more gossip. No more greed. No more jealousy. No more _____ (You fill in the blank). If you know Jesus, you're not a slave to sin. You can choose to change, and with God's help, this personal revolution can start today.

Jennifer Benson Schuldt

Attendance for December 27: n/a
Contribution for December 27: \$5412

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

"...I was sick and you visited me..." Matthew 25:36

Remember: * **Pam Claeys** as she prepares for her cancer treatments * **Morris Karnes** as he undergoes treatments * 15-year-old Bernie teen, **Kagean Owens**, who has been diagnosed with leukemia

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Louella Akers * Kristi Altman * John David Barnett * David Burleson * Janie Burleson * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Grant Howard * Don Jackson * Ronnie Mays * Sonja Mays * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Kevin Mickey * Reba Owens * Ida Roberts * Gayle Rodgers * Waynetta Rodgers * Elwood Rush * Jane Smith * Leon Smith * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Joy Watson * Marty Watson * Sharlette Watson

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Bill Fitzpatrick * Kim Goins * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Andy Kelley * Connie Lemmons * Annette Lumsden * Ponna Mahan * Paula Mason * Betty Nicholson * Angie Smith * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton * Paula Walls

Other health issues (non-congregational):

DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Lem Hubbard * Dana Jo Jackson * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Nikki Lawrence * Jerry Don McGowan * Gene Rowland * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Paige Tanner * Heather Whitehead

Our Shut Ins

Fern Botsch * Pam Claeys * Travis Cooper * Sue Flowers * Don Jackson * Shirley Johnson * Elwood Rush * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Joy Watson

The Arnold church of Christ will be having a creation seminar January 15-17. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery. Masks are required to attend.

Q: What kind of man was Boaz before he got married?

A: Ruth-less

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine. (Proverbs 17:22)



THIS GIFT

A number of years ago, I wrote an essay about my collection of canes, staffs, and walking sticks and mused that I might someday graduate to a walker. Well, the day has come. A combination of back issues and peripheral neuropathy has left me pushing a three-wheel walker. I can't hike; I can't fish; I can't do many of the things that used to bring me great joy.

I am trying to learn, however, that my limitation, whatever it may be, is a gift from God, and it is with this gift that I am to serve Him. *This* gift and not another. This is true of all of us, whether our limits are emotional, physical, or intellectual. Paul was so bold as to say that he boasted in his weakness, for it was in weakness that God's power was revealed in him (2 Cor. 12:9).

Seeing our so-called liabilities this way enables us to go about our business with confidence and courage. Rather than complain, feel sorry for ourselves, or opt out, we make ourselves available to God for His intended purposes.

I have no idea what He has in mind for you and me, but we shouldn't worry about that. Our task today is just to accept things as they are and to be content, knowing that in the love, wisdom, and providence of God this moment is as good as it can possibly be.

David Roper