

Acts 2:44 And all who believed were together and had **ALL THINGS IN COMMON.**

March 2019

# Christian Fellowship

Newsletter

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**WANTED**

Dion Dejarnette is looking for a swing set. He is also willing to do cleaning and yard work for anyone who is in need of help. Please contact him at 419-486-9979.

**INVITATION**

Have you enjoyed the fellowship of a small group yet? Do you have some time on Wednesday evening? Come join us for Wednesday Fellowship. Our small group is meeting the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month. First for dinner at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall, then from 6:45 to 8 we meet upstairs in the old library. Come be encouraged with us! As Paul wrote in Romans 1:12 "That we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine."

## "When I travel..."

(Edited from Barb Bernhard's blog at: [stillhopesallthings.wordpress.com](http://stillhopesallthings.wordpress.com))

Have you ever spent the night in an airport? I have, now two times. The first time, I vowed it would be my last, but alas, I found myself in the same predicament recently. That one day felt like a thousand years!

To make a long story short... de-icing in Detroit caused me to miss my connecting flight from Chicago to Jackson Hole, WY. Since there were no more flights to my destination, I had the option of going to Denver and flying stand-by, or go to San Francisco where they had a scheduled flight. I was very disappointed I would not be arriving in Jackson until 9:30 p.m. *Nine hours late.* Argh. I texted my daughter with the bad news.

I arrived in foggy California, noting numbly that this was my first time in this state - shouldn't I feel more excited? Then, for some unknown reason, the flight to Jackson Hole was cancelled. Great. All those going to Jackson Hole formed a discontented line at customer service. All were upset, some were resigned, and some became quite foul. I tried to stay naively hopeful.

I didn't know what to do. I was alone. I was tired. It took *forever* and rumors started swirling - there were no seats available to Jackson Hole - there were avalanches blocking the pass to Jackson - planes were skidding off the runway - they were all booked up—was it the *fog*? People in line were desperate. Most had taken off time from work to ski in Jackson. We were told there were no flights available to Jackson Hole *for 2 days.*

At about midnight, all of the people cleared out onto their waiting planes and suddenly - the whole place was empty and quiet. I was

by Barb Bernhard

alone. Ghost town alone. I've-been-left-behind alone. I felt so isolated and far from home. Forgotten. I was missing valuable time with my grand-kids and I would be several days late. Would I *ever* get there? Tears burned at the back of my eyes. Did anyone even care?

I prayed. Then, I thought I'd study my upcoming Children's Church lesson - "Jehovah Shammah, *God is always there*". Wow! **The words leapt off the page at me!** AND the memory verse was: "His eyes are on the ways of men and he sees their every step" (Job 34:21). I was not alone! I was not forgotten! The Lord saw me, knew exactly where I was, and saw my every step! The exhaustion, frustration and anxiety fell off my shoulders. Thank you, God, for your care and protection! AND *comfort.* It literally felt like a warm blanket around me holding me close. I was at peace.

At 4:30 a.m. people were once again streaming through the airport. It didn't seem like morning time, but it felt nice to pretend. Morning! I was starving, so I ordered a huge egg and bacon croissant with hash browns with the food vouchers given me by the Airline. Yay! Free food! Thank you, Lord! By 5 a.m. I was among the masses of the airport's thriving metropolis and we all had somewhere to go. My flight to Salt Lake City was scheduled for 10:45 a.m. - still over five long hours away. So, I approached the counter again and asked if there were any flights sooner. Could I try stand-by to Salt Lake City? Yes! There was a flight at 7:45 a.m. with seats available! Hallelujah!

Once in Salt Lake City, at around 10:30 a.m., I inquired again about leaving earlier, on stand-by. I definitely did NOT want a layover of *eight hours* if I could avoid it! Once again, they said that there was indeed a flight boarding to Idaho Falls

(CONT. on PG. 2)

## What God has been saying to me lately! (Earl's Pearls)

Scott Bernhard

What has God been saying to me lately? One of my favorite hymns is "Just a closer walk with thee". As I was singing it one day and preparing a nugget (Earl's Pearls) for a Wednesday night on the subject of Christ as our "mediator", it occurred to me that I should modify the lyrics, at least for my own use and life.

Here's the set-up... a mediator or arbitrator goes between two opposing parties and tries to reach a compromise or settlement. You remember a compromise – it's an agreement where neither party is happy. That picture just did not seem to fit what Christ has done as our mediator.

Strong's Concordance Definitions Legend lists the Greek word **mesítēs**, that is translated into English as "mediator", as a go-between, or by implication a reconciler or intercessor. The definition is "one who intervenes between two, either in order to make or restore peace and friendship, or to form a compact, or for ratifying a covenant". It was used of Moses, as one who brought the commands of God to the people of Israel and acted as mediator with God on behalf of the people.

Matthew Henry said "he brought mankind to stand upon new terms with God, so that they are not now under the law as a covenant of works, but as a rule of life." "A mediator supposes a controversy. Sin had made a quarrel between us and God; Jesus Christ is a Mediator who undertakes to make peace, to bring God and man together, in the nature of an umpire or arbitrator, a days-man who lays his hand upon you both".

Which brings me back to the hymn. I pictured myself walking along and Jesus between me and God the Father, and me wanting to get "just a closer walk" with Him. Here are the scriptures that came to mind...

John 14:20 "In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, **and I in you.**"

John 17:23 "I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me."

Rom. 8:10 But if **Christ is in you**, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Gal. 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but **Christ who lives in me**. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Col. 1:26-27 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, **which is Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

So, here are the original lyrics to the first verse & refrain and how I like to sing it now...

Original	My Version
I am weak, but Thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.	<i>I am dead, but you're alive; Jesus, teach me not to strive; You give peace and joy as long As I walk, with you, you in me.</i>
Just a closer walk with Thee, Grant it, Jesus, is my plea, Daily walking close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.	<i>Just a walk with Christ in me, Grant it, Jesus, is my plea, Daily walking, you in me, Let it be, dear Lord, Christ in me.</i>

(CONT. from PG. 1)

in ½ hour (!!)) and they would let me know in 20 minutes if I could hop on. I prayed, Please, please, please Lord, let there be a seat for me on this flight! And sure enough there was. Praise God! I landed in Idaho Falls 8 hours earlier than my fated previous plan, although a whole day late.

I definitely sensed the Lord leading each

step I took that morning as I boarded the planes. It felt like the Red Sea was being parted, allowing me to cross on dry ground! I was SO thankful. As we arrived at my daughter's cozy log home - wood stove burning, grandson begging "Play with me, Namma!", her husband and my baby grand-daughter – the snow began to fall. There was a blizzard that evening and we were well aware that had not the Lord intervened, my daughter and her

husband would be out driving in it, in the dark, to pick me up. I was so awed and thankful. The Lord knew the whole time! He knew my situation and had his eye on me.

Ps. 139:3 (NLT) says "You see me **when I travel** and when I rest at home. You know everything I do." How true, how faithful is our God!

(For the whole story go to Barb's blog at: [stillhopesallthings.wordpress.com](http://stillhopesallthings.wordpress.com))

## BOOK REVIEW

*Gospel Reset by Ken Ham*

review by Bet LaPointe

*Persecution is an enemy the church has met and mastered many times. Indifference could prove to be far more dangerous. - Brother Andrew, God's Smuggler*

In *Gospel Reset* Ken Ham gives clear evidence that America is becoming indifferent to the message of God's word. Ham draws a discouraging timeline of the decline of our culture's confidence in the Bible and how the language of science has undermined the truths of Genesis. He explains that we have lost our Biblical foundation and that millennials have a new "lingo" that makes standard witnessing approaches ineffective. By giving us examples of Peter's approach to the Jews versus Paul's approach to the Gentiles he makes it clear that to witness we must learn to speak the right "language" of our world and to change our approach by taking people back to the beginning of the Bible.

It should be no surprise that the founder of Answers in Genesis wrote a book that tells us to focus our witnessing on Genesis first. And while Mr. Ham does an excellent job retracing our nation's steps, showing us how we have become more Greek in our thinking, and what we as Christians need to understand to be more effective witnesses, he does not spend enough of the book on how the average person can share the gospel in a short amount of time. This book works well as a history lesson and a comforting reminder that God's plan of salvation started in the garden. It makes more than one plug for the Answers in Genesis apologetics curriculum that can be used in Sunday school classes. It also gives great information that a pastor or small group leader can use for a sermon series or Bible study.

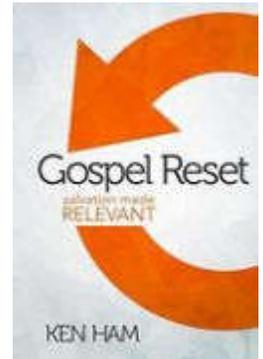
However most of us have short bursts of time with unsaved people outside of family members. We don't have hours to write our message and to redefine words. Learning a new way of doing something can make us clunky and uncomfortable. And while definition is critical to effective communication, we must remember that our actions will *always* speak louder than our words. If our time in the world is limited each day, then we need to focus on the one thing we can do without speech. Love.

As Christians we already know the definition of man-he's made in the image of God. Everyone we meet is an image bearer of our Lord and we need to treat them that way. When we act in respectful ways and shine the love of Jesus, we plant seeds of His love in their lives. We might not be the one who gets to water that seed or even watch the seed grow, but we don't have to worry about semantics in witnessing to plant a seed of love in action.

*Gospel Reset* is a book full of information and eye-opening parallels of our lives in 2019 and the New Testament world. To understand better why witnessing and sermons are missing their mark, Ken Ham has the answers. His book is a well-thought out argument for teaching apologetics in churches and it even rewrites the Roman Road for the modern vernacular-very helpful. Even though the world seems more and more indifferent to our churchy words and what it thinks we're preaching, it will never be indifferent to the way we act. Our actions will always inspire emotion, whether good or bad. And

in this way, the person in the pew who doesn't have time for learning lengthy speeches can skip the book and take action simply by living out Paul's words in Galatians 5.13b-14, "...but through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Love is the language that everyone understands. When you have little time and few words to say, just speak love. They'll get the message.

**ELDERS' CORNER**

We have 110 people here at CF who are either members, visitors or adoptees in the current small groups. We have approximately 100 people who are yet to be adopted or perhaps join a group. Once we complete the adoption process, our intent is that each person will be part of a daily prayer network (small group attendees and non-attendees) per Eph. 6:18. In addition to daily prayer, we aim to also have a daily encouragement network with each of us as well according to Heb. 3:12-13. These relationships are forming "organically" as people connect in new ways by the Lord's leading rather than assigning people into relationships. But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose (1 Cor. 12:18). We have seen new friendships form and new ministry flowing from one person to another. 1 Cor. 12:24-25 reminds us that "God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another."

Acts 2:42 says "And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking bread, and in prayers." As we gather in small groups we are beginning to see in action what our brothers and sisters experienced. We are seeing some of the "one another's" that the scriptures teach us are being fulfilled each time we gather. If you are not attending one of the small groups, please consider attending and ask the Lord if He would have you be a part of a small group.

Ken &amp; John

# Christian Fellowship

Phone: 419-866-1332  
 Email: cfsecretary@cftoledo.org  
 or misterb77@gmail.com  
 Scott Bernhard—Editor

We're on the web  
 at [cftoledo.org](http://cftoledo.org)

## March-April Birthdays

Michael LaPointe 3-14  
 Thaddeus Leinbach 3-15  
 Cathy Buckenmeyer 3-16  
 Caroline Hoen 3-20  
 Love Lee Dejarnette 3-24  
 Joyce Vernier 3-25  
 Wilson Blaisdell 3-27  
 Sarah Dudley 3-29  
 Dan Leach 4-4  
 Todd Horner 4-5  
 Grace Dejarnette 4-7  
 Scott McNay 4-7  
 Katrina Shull 4-7  
 Jill Falls 4-16  
 Dick Altman 4-18

Bob Hoenig 4-18  
 Kevin Puffer 4-18  
 Gabriela Melendez 4-24  
 Aidon Stanbery 4-24  
 Jaygur Stanbery 4-25  
 Kathy Badik 4-26  
 Moriah Pannenberg 4-27  
 Toby Parmelee 4-27

## March-April Anniversaries

Lowell & Marilyn Yoder 3-10  
 Andy & Virginia Rogers 4-2  
 Keith & Marie Good 4-20  
 Peter & Christa Fisher 4-30

**“Bind my wandering heart to Thee.”**  
 (From Robert Robertson's hymn *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*)

## MY WANDERING HEART

(By Marie Elena Good)

*Lord, I need Thee every instant;  
 Need to feel my hand in Yours.  
 When I feel my heart grow distant,  
 Call me back to heaven's shores.  
 Lord, I long for angel voices  
 Harmonizing all day through,  
 Triggering my soul's rejoicing!  
 Set my heart to praising You!  
 Lord, that I won't wander far,  
 Faint in faith, and unfulfilled,  
 Lift my eyes to Christ Child's Star  
 Where my heart is awed, and stilled.  
 Lord, I need Thee every hour.  
 Give ear to my earnest plea:  
 Hug me in Your staying power.  
 Bind my wandering heart to Thee.*

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Photo by Keith Good

If God has blessed you with the gift of writing down your thoughts, stories, poems, or the ability to dig pearls out of scripture, we need and want to hear from you. Your testimony might speak to someone that no one else could reach. As you can see, Keith & Marie Good have shared their gifts with us this month. Please be generous and share with us what God has blessed you with.



Photo by Keith Good

## **THE BLOODSTAINED CROSS** SONNET FOR SIMON OF CYRENE (by Marie Elena Good)

God's word says little of this man: A Jew,  
 Pulled from the crowd to carry Jesus' cross.  
 I wonder what he felt, and what he knew.  
 What 'Jesus stories' had he come across?

The Passover perhaps had drawn him there –  
 A dispersed Jew, returned to celebrate,  
 Who suddenly now had a cross to bear?  
 So little known. So much to speculate.

But he was there, as God had preordained,  
 And I can't help but think that he was stirred,  
 To look into the eyes of one so maimed,  
 Still full of grace. God's only *Son*. God's *Word*.

Oh Simon, what an awe-inspiring role ...  
 You touched the very blood that saved your soul.  
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