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Monthly Newsletter of Lifeway Baptist Church

May 2020

Optimism Versus Faith

By Frank Keeler

In his book, "Good to Great," Jim Collins tells the story of Admiral Jim Stockdale, who was the highest ranking United States military officer in the "Hanoi Hilton" prisoner-of-war camp during the height of the Vietnam War. Tortured over during his eight-year imprisonment from 1965 to 1973, Stockdale lived out the war without any prisoner's rights, no set release date, and no certainty as to whether he would even survive to see his family again. He shouldered the burden of command, doing everything he could to create conditions that would increase the number of prisoners who would survive unbroken, while waging an internal war against his captors and their attempts to use the prisoners for propaganda. At one point, he beat himself with a stool and cut himself with a razor, deliberately disfiguring himself, so that he could not be put on videotape as an example of a "well-treated prisoner."

When asked how he managed to survive and go on with his life, Stockdale said, "I never lost faith in the end of the story, I never doubted not only that I would get out, but also that I would prevail in the end and turn the experience into the defining event of my life, which, in retrospect, I would not trade." When asked, "Who didn't make it out?" Stockdale responded, "Oh, that's easy," he said. "The optimists." Oh, they were the ones who said, 'We're going to be out by Christmas.' And Christmas would come, and Christmas would go. Then they'd say, 'We're going to be out by Easter.' And Easter would come, and Easter would go. And then Thanksgiving, and then it would

be Christmas again. And they died of a broken heart. This is a very important lesson. You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end—which you can never be sure to lose—with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be."



"Overall we need to be thinking about the promises we have in God's word for ultimate victory."

As we continue to go through the Covid-19 Pandemic it's really easy to get into the thought process of thinking, "When is this going to be over?" or, "I hope it's over before...pick your date." or "Surely it will be over by..." But overall we need to be thinking about the promises we have in God's word for ultimate victory. As Paul wrote in Romans 8:37-39, "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

*God Bless.
Pastor Frank*



LIFEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

O grasp the strong life line for Jesus can save.

from "Throw Out the Life Line" words & music by
Edwin S. Ufford, 1888 & George S. Stebbins, 1890

This Month in the Life

DEVOTIONAL

By Shira Campbell

MATTHEW 14:27-31 BUT JESUS IMMEDIATELY SAID TO THEM: "TAKE COURAGE! IT IS I. DON'T BE AFRAID." "LORD, IF IT'S YOU," PETER REPLIED, "TELL ME TO COME TO YOU ON THE WATER." "COME", HE SAID. THEN PETER GOT DOWN OUT OF THE BOAT, WALKED ON THE WATER AND CAME TOWARDS JESUS. BUT WHEN HE SAW THE WIND, HE WAS AFRAID AND, BEGINNING TO SINK, HE CRIED OUT, "LORD, SAVE ME." IMMEDIATELY JESUS REACHED OUT HIS HAND AND CAUGHT HIM. "YOU OF LITTLE FAITH, HE SAID, WHY DID YOU DOUBT."

Teach me Father, from the lessons of the past. I can feel the wind begin to blow, the storm beginning to consume my every thought, to soak me with fear through my innermost being. Do not let me be like Peter, Father. Do not let me give into my fear, keep my eyes, heart and soul focused on you.

You, who moves the mountains. You, who calms the raging seas. You, who when you speak, stills the wind. You, who brings peace, through the Holy Spirit. You, who quenches my thirst, and feeds my soul. You, to whom I freely give my life, thoughts and fears to. Let my heart, mind and soul learn from the Apostles of the past. For when my eyes remain on you, fear is gone, the breath of the wind becomes the whisper of your voice, encouraging me with your words, and the raging sea loses its power to consume and drag me to the depths of the unknown. Thank you Father God, for your grace, mercy and faithfulness, there is none like you. Hallelujah, I serve you, the risen Savior!

MEDIA MINUTE

Submitted by Pastor Frank

Fully Free Films is a part of Ray Comfort's Living Waters Ministry- they offer streaming movies dealing with such important topics as Evolution, Suicide, Abortion, prophecy and more. They are thought provoking and all free.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Chris and Shannon Musselman—Germany

This month for our prayer we will go to Germany, to the city of Dusseldorf, which has more than 600,000 residents. Six years ago our missionary, Chris Musselman, planted a church in this city. He has two co-pastors - one German and one Korean. They call it Spectrum International Church and they are working to reach people from many lands who live in the city.

After this church was successfully started, Chris was able to start more new churches as he works with a church planting network. Many more new churches are needed urgently in Germany, where most estimates say fewer than 2 percent of the population is evangelical Christian.

Chris and his wife, Shannon, have three children. They are able to serve so well in Germany because churches like ours all across the United States contribute every month through the Cooperative program.

Chris is still a young man, but let's pray for his health as he works long hours to share Christ with as many people as possible.

Let's pray for Shannon as she works in the church. And let's pray for their kids as they cope with life in a largely non-Christian country.

Source: Southern Baptist Convention

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

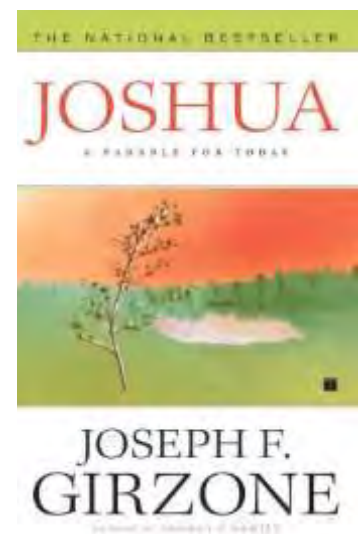
By Dagna D. Stencel

I took a small book from the library shelf, "Joshua" by Joseph F. Girzone.

Joshua was a simple woodcarver who showed up one day in small town Auburn. He lived in simplicity at the edge of town supporting himself with exquisite carvings. He asked for nothing from the people of Auburn but he had much to give. His unassuming goodness has a powerful message that touches the lives of many. Some of the people of Auburn follow his example but some are frightened of him and a senseless confrontation ensues. The sequels to Joshua, Joshua and the Children and Joshua in the Holy Land are every bit as entertaining reading, drawing us to a new understanding of the love of God.

Please stay safe as you stay home and read.

Editor's Note: Obviously, with no physical access to our church library at this time, we encourage you to see if this book is available to read or listen to online from sources such as Amazon and Audible.



The Church Around the World

Source by Open Doors, The Christian Post and The Family Research Council; submitted by Pastor Frank

FOCUS ON COVID-19

China: You might think that the Chinese government might be busy dealing with the fallout of the Covid 19 pandemic but they still found time to arrest Christians watching a zoom Easter service and demolish a state sanctioned church. News has emerged from China that the authorities have torn down an official state-sanctioned church over Easter. The demolition of Donghu Church in Qinghai province shows the authorities are not just clamping down on the underground church, but on official churches as well. Donghu Church had 300 members and was the oldest and largest church in its district. ChinaAid reports the building was ripped down on April 12 (Easter Sunday) due to 'safety concerns'. That's the pretext that has been used repeatedly to tear down crosses from churches – the so-called risk to members of the public.



India: For any country, the coronavirus is a major challenge. But for places like India, the crisis is a just another excuse to trample people. Poor families, who were already shunned and marginalized by society, are facing a virtual death sentence -- not because of the outbreak, but because the government is using the situation to block them from food and supplies. Since India ordered people inside two weeks ago, families in some villages have been completely cut off from groceries, medicine, and other essentials. "We've been locked up here, like prisoners," a pregnant mom nearly cried. "We live near a milk factory, and there is not a drop of milk for my children to drink. We are called dirty, and they say we spread the disease." But the disease is the least of her worries. Starvation isn't.

For Christians, the abuse has taken a different form. Open Doors' David Curry has heard from sources on the ground that the government is ramping up what he calls "cultural persecution." Christians, he warns, "are being put on the front lines with the most contagious, because they're considered expendable." In a country with just one doctor for every 1,457 Indians, the gaps in care are huge.

And while Christians are usually the first to volunteer to serve, but in this crisis, the government didn't give them a choice. "They were sent," FRC's Arielle Del Turco pointed out, "because of their faith, and because they hold such a marginalized status in that society. And in contrast to countries like the United States, where people on the front lines are treated like heroes, India's doctors, nurses, and helpers are being driven out of their apartments or evicted on the streets. After working long, harrowing shifts in the virus wards, some health workers are coming home to no home at all.

"They asked us to vacate without any notice," one young physician said. "They said we were dirty. Most doctors are now on the streets and have nowhere to go." Unfortunately, Arielle explained on "Washington Watch," all of this "just reflects larger societal issues in India where a lot of people are still considered unclean. And that's just the legacy of a detrimental caste system that's been really harmful for human rights. And we see Christians fall victim to this, because they are often among the lowest caste members."

For more information on the Persecuted church visit:
www.persecution.com

SANCTUARY SIDEBAR

PRAY
GOD'S GLORY
Across the Earth

"FOR THE EARTH WILL BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF THE LORD AS THE WATERS COVER THE SEA."

HABAKKUK 2:14-NIV

MAY 7, 2020

National Day Of Prayer Vista will be held online this year. Watch for an email from Pastor Frank with a link to the event.



BE INSPIRED — RIGHT IN YOUR OWN HOME — BY THE STORIES OF OUR PERSECUTED BROTHERS AND SISTERS! REGISTER FOR FREE AT THIS LINK: <https://www.persecution.com/virtual/>



WEDNESDAY,
MAY 27

Email submissions to
newsletter@lifewaychurchvista.com



Happy Mother's Day!

Church Staff

Frank Keeler
Pastor

Becky Kline
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David Kline
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*Music Coordinator,
Youth Ministry*

Barbara Jarvis
Financial Secretary

Christine Kline
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Correspondence,
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Special Events*

Dagna Stencel
*Librarian,
Media Worship*

Cathy Oquendo
Nursery Coordinator

Lina Cardenas
*Newsletter Editor,
Digital Marketing &
Webmaster*

**Are you willing to serve?
We need a sound technician to help with worship practice and/or during our church service.**

Please direct any suggestions, corrections and/or articles for consideration to:
newsletter@lifewaychurchvista.com

Prayer and Praise

This section is to honor prayer requests and share praise reports. Please know that as your church family we are glad to join our faith with yours for God's will to be

- Praise Report for Sheryl Bright (Huckeba) and family: Answered prayers for a vehicle—UCSD donated a car so Sheryl can drive to her medical appointments and funds raised for low income housing which they have started the paperwork for.

"For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and His ears are open to their prayers..."

Verse of the Month:

Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.

Ephesians 3:17 NLT

The Culture Corner

Submitted by Frank Keeler

PANDEMIC SPIKES PRESCRIPTIONS FOR DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, INSOMNIA AS EXPERT WARNS OF MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

The new coronavirus pandemic has triggered a spike in prescriptions for depression, anxiety and insomnia in a looming mental health pandemic that could explode in America if steps aren't taken to prevent it, one of the world's leading psychiatrists on mood disorders has warned. Dr. Roger McIntyre, who is currently a professor of psychiatry and pharmacology at the University of Toronto and head of the Mood Disorders Psychopharmacology Unit at the University Health Network in Toronto, told The Christian Post in a recent interview that the deadly coronavirus is already taking its toll on Americans mentally. "This is the greatest threat on our mental health in our lifetime. A combustible mix of fear, insecurity and quarantine," said McIntyre, who also serves as the director of the Canadian Rapid Treatment Center of Excellence. "We're very concerned about an increase in suicide, depression, stress and alcoholism [but] with the appropriate social, medical and individual response we can prevent the [mental health] curve." In their latest report on the use of medications to treat three of the most common mental health conditions — depression, anxiety and insomnia — Express Scripts, America's largest pharmacy benefit management organization, showed how the coronavirus has already been impacting America's mental health. Express Scripts research shows that the number of prescriptions

filled per week for antidepressants, anxiety and insomnia medications increased 21 percent between Feb. 16 and March 15, peaking the week ending March 15, when the virus was declared a pandemic. "It's understandable. Americans have grown increasingly anxious as they've seen this global pandemic upend their lives within a very short time," the report said. "This analysis, showing that many Americans are turning to medications for relief, demonstrates the serious impact COVID-19 may be having on our nation's mental health. "Prescriptions for anxiety medications, which rose 34.1 percent from mid-February to mid-March, including a week-over-week spike of nearly 18 percent during the week ending March 15, showed the greatest spike. The number of prescriptions filled for antidepressants and sleep disorders also increased 18.6 percent and 14.8 percent, respectively, from Feb. 16 to March 15. He urged people who may not know where to look for support or how to respond to a mental health crisis to reach out to organizations like churches for help. "The literature around religiosity and spirituality is very clear. Church attendance, for example, has been shown to reduce suicides in a robust way. It decreases mental illness, it decreases drug and alcohol issues and so we really encourage that," he said. "Find interests. Keep yourself purposeful, keep yourself engaged. Taken together, the social part to this that is the political, social contributions to society, the medical establishment, we strongly believe that you can prevent a lot of this curve."

Source: The Christian Post