

Another Word January 25, 2022

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Hope everyone is staying warm. We have really been on a roller coaster of temperatures over the last week, as well as an extra dose of snow. And they say January brings about the dull-drums! You must admit that regardless, winter is a beautiful time of the year. And I can hear Ken and Bill saying, "Yes, it really is beautiful... when seen from Florida."

We have had a few want to be on the email prayer list. If you want to be on the list, just send us an email to firstchristianchurch@zoominternet.net and you will be included.

It is time for our next study, "The Art of Living; God, Discovering the Divine" By Henri Nouwen. Looking at our calendar, we could start February 1 for 4 weeks, ending just before Ash Wednesday. Again, the classes will be at 10:30 am and 6pm each Tuesday in February. A sign-up sheet will be in the gathering center, and I have a few extra books if anyone would like to join us.

Our scriptures for this Sunday are: Psalm 71:1-6. Our serving Elder is Todd Whitmer. Also Luke 4:21-30. "Sometimes, the truth hurts."

Please continue prayers for Lana's aunt and uncle, John Whitmer, and our nephew Chase who is still waiting for a heart and lung transplant. Let us go to our God in prayer.

Eternal God, we come to you filled with awe and wonder. You are strong and constant while we are weak and often yielding to the pressures of the world around us. If we rely on You, then even in our weakness, You come to us with strength, guiding us through Your words of hope and truth. May we constantly look to You for direction as we travel our journey of life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

I had an incident happen to me last Saturday that reminded me of the following story.

There was a little boy whose family just moved to a new town. He decided to go exploring by himself and soon became lost. It started to snow, and it was getting dark. Scared and confused, he went up to a gas station to ask for help, but it was closed. Setting down on the step, he began to cry.

A policeman was out on patrol and happened to see the little boy and stopped to check if everything was ok. He asked his name; "Billy" the little boy said. He was then asked where he lived, but he couldn't remember the new address.

The policeman was about to call in a missing child report when the little boy remembered something. As he wiped tears from his eyes he told the policeman that there was a church close to where he lived. It had a tall steeple with a cross on top. And then he said, "If you can get me to the cross, I can find my way home!"

"Out of the mouths of babes" comes great wisdom. In a seemingly innocent cry of hope, comes a deep and penetrating truth. Jesus said in John 14:16, "I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." And then Peter tells us the rest of the story

in 1 Peter 3:18. "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous." Why? The reason is, "to bring you (back home) to God." The only way to find your way home, is through Jesus and the cross. What was done there was done for every person on the face of the earth. What an awesome and giving and loving God we have!

So, what happened that brought this story to mind? Last Saturday I found myself lost; looking for a family's reception that was out in the country. Out of the corner of my eye, I happened to see a cross on the side of a building a half mile off the road. That cross lead me to the right place. So, may I leave you with these words of wisdom? Keep your eyes on the cross and you will never be lost.

In His Peace,

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