

Another Word October 06, 2020

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

I hope you are having a nice week. As I set here typing, the driveway is under construction. Noisy, but great to know it will be done soon.

Our scriptures for this Sunday are Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23 and a combination of Matthew 21:33-46 and Matthew 22:1-14. ("The Tenants of the Vineyard" and "The Wedding Banquet") Could be a bumpy ride!

I had a nice talk with the Chaplin at Brethren Care village on Monday. The residents are safe, but many have had no outside connection or contact with others for months. Some receive a letter or a phone call, but many have only had contact with staff personnel. This got me thinking that we could again start sending signed, encouraging notes and cards that could be delivered by the Chaplin to those who are in greatest need. It also occurred to me that there are 3 more nursing homes that could use our help in raising the spirits of their residents.

We all know the joy that a hand written note brings. What I am proposing is an outreach for us over the next 3 months. Every Sunday bring your signed cards and written notes to Church and place them in a basket on the communion table. (Just one card or note each week per person) Then each Monday I will deliver them to one of the homes in Ashland. For those not presently attending services but would like to participate, you may mail them to the Church or drop them off in our mail box. This outreach will be especially needed as we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays. I will also have a few extra cards available each Sunday for those who forgot to bring one. I hope you will join me in sharing Christ's love by lifting the spirits of someone, who through these trying times may feel lonely or forgotten.

May we pray. Gracious and loving God. You have breathed on us and given us life, life in abundance. May we always see the beauty of your

creation. The world around us works hard to distract and distress us, but you protect us from all harm. Through your wonderful grace we are forgiven and set free to do your will. Open our eyes to your power and goodness, that we may share your love to others. We pray for your protection on those in harm's way; our peacemakers, fire and rescue, healthcare workers, all those who daily put their lives on the line for others. We also hold up to you those in our hearts and minds who are in need of your healing touch. Fill our hearts with your love, and our mouths with praise, and may we live our lives in obedience to you. In Jesus' perfect name we pray, Amen.

And speaking of prayer, (or maybe I should say the "power" of prayer) I recently read an account of the life of George Mueller (1805-1898). Born in East Prussia, George spent his adult life in England, specifically Bristol, as a pastor who had a heart to help children.

He and his wife started an orphanage and never turned away a single child. What made them unusual was they prayed to God for all their needs. Not just once, but continually prayed and then expected that all their needs would be met by God through prayer. The story I now relay is just one of countless true examples of the power of prayer they experienced.

300 children were dressed and seated, ready for their breakfast. Pastor Mueller offered up a prayer of thanks to God for the food that will be shared. The problem was, there was no food in the orphanage. That was not unusual, for often there was little or no food available. How will the children be fed? How will God provide?

Within minutes there was a knock at the door. The local baker couldn't sleep the night before so he arose early and baked a third batch of bread, thinking the orphanage may need a little extra that day. A few minutes later, there was another knock at the door. It seems the milkman's cart broke a wheel in front of the orphanage. It would take

time to repair and he didn't want the milk to spoil, so he wanted to know if they could use it. Now before you think this is a nice once in a lifetime story, consider this;

Over George's lifetime he and his wife cared for 10,024 orphaned children, and established 117 schools, giving a Christian education to over 120,000 students, many of whom would never have had a chance for an education. They raised, in today's currency over 100 million dollars in donations. And by the way, not one penny from any agency was ever asked for or accepted. Their secret; they were in constant and continual prayer. And donations always came at the appropriate time.

In our fast paced, modern, secular based world we sometimes forget how God wants to be involved in our lives. The worries of the world can send us in many directions but Jesus has promised that his Father, our God, Knows and will supply our needs. Matt 6:8. We just need to ask.

So, before we seek worldly solutions, we need to remember to ask for, and continually seek God's help first. Who knows who he has already sent to knock on your door?

In His peace,

*Rich*