

Another Word June 1, 2021

To our friends and family of First Christian Church

We hope you had a pleasant, peaceful, and reflective Memorial Day. May I offer this thought to keep in your hearts and minds all year long. “Only two forces have ever offered to die for you—The American Soldier and our Lord, Jesus Christ. One died for your freedom, and the other died for your soul.” We need to be grateful to God for both!

As a reminder, you are invited to join Donita and me at the church pavilion this Saturday from 2 to 4 pm as we celebrate 50 years of marriage. No gifts please. Your “presence” is the best gift to us!

The weather has finally turned warmer and next Sunday looks great, so be prepared to worship together outside at the pavilion. You may sit at the picnic tables or bring your own lawn chairs.

We will again begin recording our live services on Sunday mornings, and download them to our website and YouTube to be shown later in the day.

Our scriptures for this Sunday are Psalm 138, and Acts 16: 6-40, “God opens locked doors.” The Elder is Linda Gardner.

Please remember in your prayers Dr. Stan Brechbuhler as he recovers from surgery and George Paulsen who faces surgery June 8th.

May we come together in prayer.

Dear Holy and loving Father. Your Grace and beauty, your majesty, and your power fill us with awe and wonder. The love You shower on us is such a wonderful gift and we often can't find the words to express our thankfulness and gratitude; so we humbly just say thank you. We hold up to You Stan and George. May they find peace as well as healing in Your loving arms. We ask also for Your protection for our public servants whose duties are an extension of Your caring. Guide us as we traverse the highways of life; that we do not stray but live full lives in Your service. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

My first interview to become a sales representative was in Florence, Kentucky, a destination well over 200 miles away. You need to know, that at that time, driving to the mall in Mansfield was a long trip to me. By God's grace, the car I drove made the trip, I didn't get lost, and the interviewer, who later became a good friend (Hey Bill, I'm talking about you) took a chance and hired me. The rest, as they say, is history.

Not long after I was hired, Bill was set to interview another person for a position on the east coast. If I remember correctly, the person to be interviewed lived in the Baltimore area but Bill set up a meeting somewhere close to Richmond Virginia, again, a relatively long distance to drive. On the day of the interview, Bill waited and waited for the recruit to show. After a few hours, he received a phone call and apology for the missed appointment. They had driven the wrong way on Interstate 95 and were north of New York City before they discovered their mistake. Oops! For obvious reasons, they did not get the job.

I often wondered why Bill chose a distant and out of the way place to interview potential employees, and then it occurred to me. In a time before GPS, a rep needed to have an ability to read maps, have a sense of direction, and an acute awareness of your surroundings. Every day, you would be driving to different states, to different towns, and if you got lost, you couldn't effectively do your job. You see, the trip was part of the interview. (Pretty sneaky Bill)

I think the lesson here is that you need to know what direction you are going. It doesn't matter how fast or how hard you are driving if you are not paying attention to what's around you, if you are on the wrong road, or going the wrong way. And right now, there are a lot of people in the world that are "driving" fast on the wrong road.

Jesus said in Matt. 7: 13, "Many are on the wide road that leads to destruction." If you stay on that road, at Judgment Day He will say "I never knew you." The road to destruction is revealed in Proverbs 13:14, "There is a way that seems right with man, but in the end it leads to death." Yep...that is definitely the wrong way. So, what is the right way?

Chapter 3 in the book of Romans shows us the right road. "We are made right with God through the redemption of Jesus." Our salvation is found nowhere else. It all comes down to your answer to the question, "what are you going to do with Jesus?" Trusting in Jesus means you have chosen the right direction, the right road.

But what if you are driving fast on the wrong road or going in the wrong direction? Is there no hope for you? That's where the road map (The

Bible) and your sense of direction and surroundings come into play. Just like the signs on our super highways, our lives have signs all along our journey that can warn us and tell us when we are headed in the wrong direction. (Too bad the recruit didn't pay attention) God gives us the choice to be able to turn around and get on the right road before the journey ends and it's too late. And if you are on the right road you can enjoy the trip, and even bring someone else along for the best trip of their lives.

In His Peace,

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