

Another Word September 14, 2021

Since Pastor Rich and Donita are in Atlanta, I will be sending the letter this week. Rich will return this week and be leading us in worship on Sunday the 19th. I first want to thank Brian Nabors for preparing the service of music this past Sunday. We are so fortunate to have Brian and his many talents. I also want to thank Lana Bell for leading the hymns and Matt Henderson who was Elder. The ensemble, Shelley Carpenter, Paige Carpenter, Matt Henderson, Lana Bell and of course Brian, did an awesome job. I will mention we are working on the sound and wish the microphones had been working. Nevertheless, it was a beautiful service. Thank you all! One more thanks, I thank Sue Detrow for coming in to help with communion and set up and greeting, since Pastor Rich, Donita & Linda Gardner were gone. Thanks Sue!

Our Bible Study, "The Art of Living" by Henri Nouwen, will begin next Tuesday, September 21st. There will be a 10:30 am session and a 6:00 pm session. Book are \$4.00 each or \$15.00 for all 5. There is a sign-up sheet in the gathering room or you may call the office for more info.

Scriptures for Sunday, Sept. 19th are: Psalm 1 and James 3: 13, 4: 3, 7-8. Todd Whitmer is Elder.

Crop Walk is October 3rd. Dick Reich and Todd Whitmer will be accepting donations. The collected donations help in two ways. First, they go to help worldwide hunger. And second, a portion collected stays in our community to aid local food banks. Thank you for your continued support for this worthwhile program.

As we go to prayer, please remember all those with needs and those who are suffering loss. As I am typing this, Rich & Donita's nephew Chase is undergoing his transplant surgery. A donor was found and he is getting a new heart and lungs. We need prayers for Chase, his family, the donor's family and the doctors!

May we pray;

Most Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for this life and all its blessings, for joys great and simple, for gifts and powers more than we deserve and for love at the heart of your purpose and for the wisdom in all your works. We pray for the light of Jesus Christ to dawn upon us daily and may we always have a grateful heart. In Jesus Name, Amen

You may know that I like Max Lucado. I have many of his books and I get his devotion each morning. From one of his devotions Max Lucado began by saying: "In one of Henri Nouwen's books, he tells about the lesson of trust he learned from a great trapeze artist. The acrobat said, "The flyer does nothing and the catcher does everything. I have simply to reach out my arms and hands and wait for him to catch me and pull me safely over the apron. The flyer must trust, with outstretched arms that his catcher will be there for him."

"In the great trapeze act of salvation, God is the catcher, and we are the flyers. We trust. Period. We rely solely upon God's ability to catch us. As we do trust him, a wonderful thing happens: we fly! Your Father has never dropped anyone. He will not drop you. His grip is sturdy, and his hands are open. Place yourself entirely in his care. As you do, you will find it is possible, - yes, possible – to be anxious for nothing." Max Lucado

Wow, how simple that is – we just need to trust! Trust that if we reach out our hands to God – he will catch us! Easy enough! But why don't we always do that? Is it because we don't trust or even believe God will be there for us?

Many years ago, when we lived in Bowling Green, I was in a neighborhood Bible Study group and we were also trying to sell our house. It was a bad housing market and our house had been on the market for months. Dale had already left for his new position and I had tried everything to make this house feel more welcoming for a buyer. I had flowers on the tables, coffee and cookies on the counter, and sometimes even a roast in the oven. Nothing was helping. One of the women in the bible study asked me if I had turned it over to God? I still cringe when I remember my trite remark. "Like God is in the real estate business." - - - -
- - We ended each session with the women standing in a circle to pray. When my turn came I ask God to take over the sale of our home. I told him I was sorry I had

been so nasty and doubting. In a matter of days, God let me know that he WAS in the real estate business and in ALL of my business. All I had to do was ask. A minister and his wife bought our house. He told me that they were driving up my street to visit and church member and his wife said "I want to see that house". They were looking for a parsonage but the church was on the other side of town. Turns out our house fit all their needs. I have had other instances of turning things over to God – this one sticks out in my mind the most. I learned to trust!

In 2 Corinthians 5: 7 we find this short verse: "For we live by faith, not by sight". This verse tells us an essential truth. We live by trusting in God and allowing him to lead us on our paths, rather than trying to find our paths alone.

I forget sometimes, we all forget, but God is ready to answer our prayers. We just need to reach out our arms and trust in him!

In His Peace!

Ellie