



# New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Sunday, February 19, 2022

Vol. 16, Issue 19

## Pastoral Pondering

### SEEKING AND SHARING GOD'S COMFORT IN THE CHAOS

*"When I shut up heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place." ~2 Chronicles 7:13-15*

Writing pastoral ponderings for me personally is difficult. I am given the task of trying to put into words what God is doing in my life which often becomes an intimate look at what's going on in an introvert's world. I have written in the past about ongoing theological debates with my very intelligent, agnostic, 86-year-old father whom I love very much, with hopes of him turning to Jesus before it's too late. Last pondering, I wrote about always being thankful even in the midst of trials with my grandson's newly diagnosed type 1 diabetes, which we continue to deal with but seems to be going well by the grace of God. As I have been encouraged by the testimony of others, I am hopeful that these words that God puts on my heart will do the same for you.

The world is a mess. We humans, like the Israelites, have turned from God. We've had pandemics, riots, increasing racial divide, increasing loss of free speech, targeting of Christians over conservative values, the degradation of the nuclear family, Chinese spy balloons, wars, toxic train derailments, earthquakes, laws allowing abortions up to full term, and people actually debating that men can have babies (I guess I was playing basketball when they taught that class in medical school). This is just a little view of things currently going on in the world. It's hard to imagine that things could get worse.

As followers of Christ, are we to then sit quietly in despair as the world crumbles around us? Of course not. We know that God is sovereign and in control over all things. But He works through His people to exalt Him and show the world who He is. In view of that truth, we elders have looked back to when we shut down New Life for several weeks when covid started, and we can confidently say that in the future, worship at New Life will never go remote again, unless God Himself does it.

What then should we do when we are faced with future trials? In 2 Chronicles, we see God speaking to King Solomon after the king dedicated the temple, exhorting the Israelites to first realize that He is in control of all things - including judgments like famines and pestilence - and that should lead His people to repent and pray. Although our country doesn't have the same covenant relationship with God that ancient Israel had, God still desires that we (the Church) recognize our sin, humble ourselves and repent, admit we aren't in control and submit ourselves to God. He will hear our

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## Pastoral Pondering

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prayers - and we can leave it up to Him to accomplish His purposes in His way.

Imagine what this may look like among His followers? You don't need to imagine because this is what happens when we gather on Sundays. It's happening in the darkest places around the globe like at our Southern border as Travis powerfully testified a few months ago. We desperately need and desire a healing of our land, but we see that God works in individual hearts that submit to Him in faith - one heart at a time.

I would like to conclude this with another example of God's sovereign work among His people. This week buried in the usual reports of disasters was a report out of Asbury University in the small town of Wilmore, Kentucky, a population of 6000 people. There is a reported revival happening. "It began with a regularly scheduled chapel service at Hughes Auditorium on Feb .8 and it simply hasn't ended." Nothing was planned, apparently people weren't praying for revival, and there is nothing special about Wilmore, KY. It's reported the crowds are growing with people coming in from other states as well as other countries. Prayer and worship are going on 24/7. God is doing something in Wilmore as well as in Dresser Junction.

My prayer for New Life is that we humble ourselves, pray and seek Jesus in all circumstances, good and bad. There is great comfort in knowing the Creator of all things hears our prayers and will give us His healing, in His way. We can trust Him.

In Christ, Greg Mattson

welcome

If you are a visitor this morning or have only been coming to New Life for a few months we are glad you are joining with us! If you would like to learn more about New Life, be sure to stop by the Resource Center in the front foyer to pick up a welcome bag we have for you. Please join us for fellowship and meal after service today. We would love to meet and get to know you and for you to get to know us more.

Busy Bags  
Available by the Door

## MINISTRY DIRECTORY

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Pastoral Eldership Team:

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### This Week's Scheduled Events:

Tues	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Wed	Every Man's Battle– 6:00 am
Wed	Immerse– 6:15-7:30 pm
Thurs	Men's Bible Study– 6:30 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– 10:00 am
Thurs	Ladies Bible Study– Noon
Thurs	Ladies Study– 6:30 pm
Thurs	GriefShare– 6:30 pm (Adults & Youth meet separately)

### February Memory Verse:

1 John 4:15-16 (ESV)

"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God and God abides in him."

### February Fellowship Tip:

Consider the needs of our widows and widowers among us at New Life. A simple phone call, visit, or invite to your home, is an immense gift to them and to you.

### Sunday Meals and Fellowship:

Feb 19	Team 4 ~ Rice & Beans
Feb 26	Team 5 ~ Breakfast

Contact Barbara Judkins if interested in being on a meal team or a helper.

Check out New Life Online  
[newlifechristiancommunity.org](http://newlifechristiancommunity.org)

➤ **Gospel Joy International Gala:** The GJI Gala will be held **February 23rd at 6pm at the Paikka in St. Paul**. Emily Pohl is one of our missionaries we support. She works in translating Bible books into Bible studies through oration, thus these audio Bible studies are reaching mostly African countries. She has invited anyone who would like to hear stories about God's faithfulness in using GJI's audio Bible Studies in Africa and help raise support for this ministry to continue. If interested for more details contact Lorraine Milner.

➤ **Hall of Men:** Men young and old(er), Hall of Men is next **Sunday, February 26th at 6:30pm**. It is always a time of conviction and encouragement to walk as men of Christ now in our generation as we hear about the lives of men from the past where Jesus was honored and glorified. There is no meal but your welcome to bring a snack to share.

➤ **St. Croix Valley Men's Retreat:** Men, make room on your calendars for the St. Croix Valley Men's Retreat taking place **Friday, April 14th and Saturday April 15th**. The location is Oak Forest Retreat Center in Frederic, WI. **The first session on Friday begins at 7pm and the retreat ends Saturday around 5pm**. Fathers are encouraged to bring their sons! Registration forms and pamphlets with cost breakdowns will be available shortly. Any questions just talk to pastor Paul.

### Missions Inspiration Highlight

Many of us would like to do more to further God's kingdom. Randy Alcorn's very short book, *"The Treasure Principle,"* available in our Resource Center, challenges us to think eternally about our money and our possessions. How much should I give? Who owns my possessions? Are there rewards in heaven for giving while on earth? These and many more thought-provoking questions are discussed. Read the book and be encouraged to think about money, possessions, eternity and missions! ~Written by Melissa Lipp as a part of Rice and Beans Sunday.

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resourcecenter

Looking for a good book to give as a gift or thinking of starting a bible study? Check out our resource center and ask the resource ministry team for some good suggestions. The Resource Center is bursting with new titles! Age of Opportunity (parenting teens) by Paul Tripp; devotional books and a Bible study on the gospel of Mark for middle schoolers; 3 new books by Elisabeth Elliot; Adorned (the women's retreat book); The Princess Adelina (for young ladies & everyone); God and Me series for young kids; Crossway Short Classics; Also, The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn; and a story for kids about the parable of the Seeds and Soils by New Life's own Donna Hiller! In addition to good books for both adults and children, there are also music CD's, DVD documentaries, bible concordance, systematic theology books, and much more. Take a look today after service.



**Today's Passage:**

Pastor Tony's message is from the  
New Testament book,

**Acts 27:21-32**

**Sermon Notes:**