

# HEARTBEAT

Hope in Christ Church Monthly Newsletter

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## Is the judgement of God upon us?

By Pastor Scott

Increasingly I have been thinking one thought over and over. This thought always comes with a question and the answer to that question is sobering. I try to explain away the thought. I try to ignore it. I try to pretend that it is just my mind making it up and that any other explanation is possible. But I can't seem to shake it. I have hesitated to write about this thought and have contemplated making a short video to share with our church and world, and maybe I will, but for now, the words I share are urgent and significant and they relate to every person in our country.

Before I make this one thought explicit, let me recount the current state of our world, but particularly of our nation. On the natural disaster front, the United States has seen a horrendous fire season in the west. There are 54 uncontained fires across our country as of 9/21 and countries like Australia suffered similarly this year. Smoke fills the sky and has led to some of the worst air quality that has been witnessed in decades. Flooding has hit our world hard, displacing tens of thousands across the globe, including dam failures in Michigan and China. The Midwest suffered terrible windstorms that devastated crops and farms. Thankfully there was no loss of life that I am aware of. The Southeast has seen hurricanes. And drought continues to plague the southwest. This is just the shortlist of natural disasters.

Add to this list the public health situation that the world is living through as governments seek to manage the Covid-19 virus. And don't forget the civil unrest that is taking over our cities with Portland, Seattle and other such places serving as examples of anarchy and lawlessness. Then there is the political chaos in our land where two parties are incapable of governing, compromising or working for the betterment of the American peo-

ple. The candidates being put forth from both sides are increasingly from the extremes and seem capable of only a few things: inflammatory rhetoric, lies and partial truths. Neither party is immune.

With that review of the year 2020, how ought a Christian think about our present situation? Let me direct your thoughts to the book of Deuteronomy 28:15-68. In this section of the Bible, Moses is telling the people what will happen if they disobey the Lord God. Their cities and fields will be cursed (v.16). There will be confusion and frustration (v20) along with pestilence, wasting disease, fever, inflammation (v22). Dust will fall from heaven (v24) and the enemies of the people will take over (v25). There will be oppression, injustice, thievery (v27-35). Fields will be planted but not bear fruit (v40). Slavery will be your future (v68). All of this is the result of 'not serving the Lord you God with joyfulness and gladness of heart' (v47). Similar pictures are found in the prophets and the book of Revelation.

This brings me to the one recurring thought that I can't seem to shake: Is the judgment of God upon us? Though, I don't want to answer this in the affirmative, the scriptural testimony is this: When a people fail to worship God and obey His commandments, then the Lord sends punishment upon them in order to awaken a sense of repentance. For he promises that if the people will return to the Lord and obey his voice then he will 'restore your fortunes and have mercy on you' (Dt 30:1-10). The Judgment of God is meant to awaken a heart to turn from sin and turn to the Lord of Life.

So, what is the one question that comes with this thought? Is it not this: Will America listen and return to the Lord? This question can be asked in a

number of ways, but they all revolve around this central theme: Will we repent of our wickedness in every area? Will we quit calling good evil and evil good? Will we walk humbly with God? Will we quit trying to normalize things that God forbids?

My hope is that we will repent, but again the stories of Scripture don't give me much encouragement from a national perspective. Israel went into exile, Sodom was destroyed and Revelation tells us that the mighty Babylon fell and her people went to the grave 'cursing the God of heaven' and refusing to repent (Rev 16:11). Only the story of Nineveh stands out as a rebellious city who repented for a period of time and the judgment of God was stalled when the King, his nobles, all the people and even the animals put on sack cloth and ashes (Jonah 3:6-10).

Given this poignant question: is the judgment of God upon us? Let us all repent, beseech the Lord and ask for his mercy. Let us pray for the working of the Spirit to turn hearts of stone into hearts of flesh. Let us implore our God for our leaders, our neighbors, our friends and even our enemies. And let us call people to repentance, before that hour is too late and the sword falls and our nation falls into the history books only to be replaced by another nation who will repeat this same process

## Greetings from Telkwa!

By Mike Cunningham

I am writing this letter as a huge THANK YOU to all who have supported the outreach to Emily Williams and Marisa Chambers over the past year. Last August we put out an invitation to support our endeavor of providing housing for Emily as she moved from the village of Fort Babine into Telkwa to begin grade 7 in the Christian School in Smithers. We sought to raise support for 12 months, as Emily was 1 year too young to receive help from her band for room and board. With help from so many of you, from the Bulkley Valley Christian School, from the Telkwa Community Church, and from the excellent leadership and house-parenting provided by Marisa (all gifts from the Lord), we experienced a real blessing from God over this whole project. Emily transitioned well into the school community. She loved her year of education, and was a pleasure to nurture. She played in band, was on her first basketball team, went snow-boarding on our local mountain, participated in youth groups, sang in our wor-

ship band, and participated in countless school activities. I know that the school has been very blessed to have Emily as a part of the school community. So again thanks to all in Jesus name! As far as the finances have gone, we were able to raise funds over and above the costs of Emily's room and board, and were able to make a contribution at the end of the year to the cost of tuition for Emily, although the school still subsidized a large portion this. In total we raised close to \$15,000 for this project. What a testimony to God's love in action! Looking ahead to this year, Emily plans to return to the Telkwa Community Church Parsonage, and live again with Marisa and enter grade 8. There was interest on Emily's mom's part of adding Emily's younger sister to the house, but as we were unable to find a second gal to move into the house and share the house-parent duties, we felt like we needed to offer care to Emily alone at this point. Thank you for being a part of this outreach over the past year. Please consider your support of this project completed at this point. As Emily is in grade 8 there will be band support for her room and board from this point moving forward. If, however, you feel like this is a ministry that you would like to continue to support, any donation to Streetcorners Ministries designated towards "Supportive Housing" will be directed towards maintenance of the house, keeping Marisa's expenses low as she is giving so much of herself to make this possible, and 2 towards the school to help with tuition costs (the band will not support private education tuition.) Your giving in this way can help us grow and develop this ministry in the days and years to come. God bless you all as partners in our work to share the love of Christ with the beautiful children and people of Fort Babine.



# Friendship: Brightening our Friend's Days

By Tanya Obbink

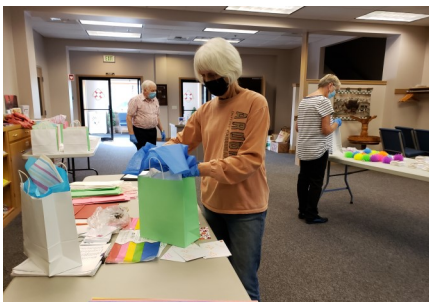
How do we move forward when Friends express loneliness and desire to be meeting, even if just virtually? Others want no part of virtual meetings, they only want "in-person" time together. Combined with Friends who have no internet access and/or live in government funded care homes with strict COVID-19 guidelines to follow. We were left to wrestle with "How do we meet our Friends with God's love at this time with so many factors to consider?"

September 14 would have marked the first Friendship bible study meeting for this ministry year. Instead of beginning our year altogether, seven mentors gathered on a zoom call for a time of prayer over the Friendship Ministry and to discuss possible ways God would have us move forward. The decision was made that while bible study is not in Friendship's near future, we would maintain contact with our Friends with twice-monthly postcards. At the end of 2020 we will reconsider if God is leading us to make any changes to how He would like us to proceed. We are trusting that God will take this little offering being given (postcards to show we're thinking of our Friends and care for them) and use it in a way beyond what is imagined to minister His love to our Friends.

"Thank you for the nice gifts you gave . . . we like the gifts," was the quote from one of our Friends. Four mentors joined efforts to brighten the day for our Friends by preparing gift bags. The mentors bought an assortment of items and put little gift bags together, including a personal card to each Friend. After spending a morning packing the bags, they were delivered to our Friends around the county. The bags have been well received, and as the photo of one Friend shows, it really did brighten our Friends' day. Thank you to those who developed and executed this great idea!

If you feel led, these are some ways you can be in prayer for this ministry:

1. God would use this time of reduced hands-on ministry commitments to refresh the mentors and create new excitement/energy in serving.
2. God would provide a refreshed vision for how He wants this, His ministry, to move forward in the new year and post-COVID-19.
3. God would meet our Friends spiritual and emotional needs, continuing to draw them closer to Him in relationship, during this time.



# Getting to Know Our Church Family

By Elaine Snapper

This month I am featuring Len and Terry Vander Woude. Terry grew up in Myrtle Creek, Oregon, where she attended school through high school and was brought up in the Methodist Church in Myrtle Creek. She has two brothers and a sister. Her sister passed away of cancer in 1984, and one brother lives in the Los Angeles area and the other brother lives in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Len grew up in Lynden and has one brother, Doug. The family attended First CRC in Lynden and Len attended Lynden Christian School through high school. A week after he graduated, he joined the Air Force and was stationed in Thailand. His last two years in the military he was stationed in Alaska. Len later joined the Air Force Reserves and in 1990 during Operation Desert Storm his unit was activated, and he was sent to Frankfurt, Germany for six months.

After Terry's parents divorced, she and her mother moved to Tacoma, and she attended Bates Vocational Technical School where she met Len while both were serving on the student council. Len was taking welding classes and she was taking secretarial classes. Len attended the Tacoma Christian Reformed Church. He was working at Shakey's Pizza while attending Bates Vocational School. Terry sold Fuller Brush door to door to support herself.

Terry's first job was at Pacific Lutheran University School of Nursing as a secretary and after the couple were married in Tacoma in 1972, they moved to Ferndale. They later moved to Bellingham.

They started attending our church after they were married. Shortly after attending our church Terry made profession of faith and was baptized. They have been married for 48 years. They have two children, Kelly and Kay. Kay has twin daughters who just turned seven years old and Kelly has two children, a boy who is 15 and a daughter who is 11. Kelly is a pastor at Immanuel Christian Reformed Church in Fort Collins, Colorado and Kay works for T-Mobile. Kay and her husband live in Idaho. Len and Terry enjoy visiting their family whenever possible.

Terry worked for the Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office as a legal secretary/assistant for 31 years. A few months after she retired from the

Prosecutor's Office, she became our church secretary for approx. 14 years. Len worked for Krause Manufacturing as a sheet metal fabricator for several years and then worked for Andgar until he retired.

The couple has served our church in many different capacities. Len has served as an elder a couple times and has served as a deacon. Terry has served as a deacon at least twice. She has been involved in the Friendship program for several years and has been involved in Bible studies. She has headed up our bazaars for several years and has planned the women's getaway weekends. She is a great organizer. Len has served on the Building Committee for several years. Both are very willing to assist in any way they can for people in our church. They both enjoy our church a lot, and we are glad they are such active members in our church.



## Family Promise Update

By Ali Laninga

Our next opportunity to bless the families in the Family Promise Program will be the week of **October 26-November 1**.

Please let Lorraine Brouwer or Ali Laninga know if you would be willing to help with a meal.

Be on the lookout for more information when we get closer to the date.



a program of  
Interfaith Coalition

# The work of the Church

## “Reading IV: Anonymous (Early 1920’s)

In order to do the work of the Church, preach the gospel of the Crucified, it is necessary that men build up an outward organization, patterned after the Church Universal, in which every phase of the Church’s work can be taken care of. It is impossible for the individual Christian by his own individual efforts to preach the gospel of the Crucified unto the ends of the earth. To do this it becomes necessary to educate and train men for the ministry, so that preachers and missionaries might be sent out. It becomes necessary to have an organization at home which will stand in back of the missionary and help him by supplying the necessary wherewithal. It becomes necessary to print and spread Christian literature, etc., etc. All of this necessitates the forming of local, Christian congregations which shall again be united with one another, so that the work of the church might be done decently and speedily. And so the work of the Church demands that men join themselves to local Christian congregations and as members of these local congregations do their share of the Church’s work. Church membership implies that men work for the Church, that men help with their brawn and with their brain to spread the gospel of salvation. The Church member is not only to enjoy the blessings of the Church; he is to work in the Church, so that the gospel of salvation might be preached among all nations. The members of the Church are not living in this world for the purpose of making and hoarding money. The members of the Church are not living for the purpose of having a good time out of it and building up vast fortunes. The members of the Church are living in the world in order to do the work of the Church, namely, to preach the gospel. In order to preach the gospel, the Christians need money, they need a great deal of money. The more money they have the more extensively can they preach the gospel. And so the Christians work and they work hard, and they try to make a lot of money so that they can give a lot of money for the preaching of the gospel. That is the one thing a Christian lives for. And so everything a Christian does in some manner serves this purpose.

Surely this work of the Church ought to be done in keeping with the dignity of the Church. The Church is not a beggar in the world, “thumping a harp for smiles and pennies,” she is not engaged in trivial matters, but in the most momentous affairs of the world. She is engaged in a business which will react far into eternity. When the heavens will be rolled up like a scroll and the earth will vanish like smoke, the Church will continue. And so the Church and her work ought to demand the very best that is in man. Men dare not do her work in a careless, listless manner, in a manner which would spell ruin and bankruptcy, if it were applied to their business. Men dare not do the tremendous work of the Church on the few pennies which are left over after all other wants have been supplied. Men dare not give cents for the Church when they ought to be giving dollars. Men dare not cheapen the Church by giving her only the left-overs of their time and their interest and their thought and their power and their money. The Church demands the best enthusiasm, the best devotion, the best service, the best sacrifices of which men are capable. The Church demands the largest place in our thoughts and in our devotion and in our life.

A tract, “The Church’s Claim Upon Men,” perhaps the earliest published by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau. At the end of the tract are found these words: “As God supplies our need, we publish our tracts and send them out free to those who will prayerfully and carefully distribute them.”

Closing prayer: Lord, as Thy mercies do surround us, so grant that our returns of duty may abound; and let this day manifest our gratitude by doing something well-pleasing to Thee. Amen.”

# Giving in August 2020

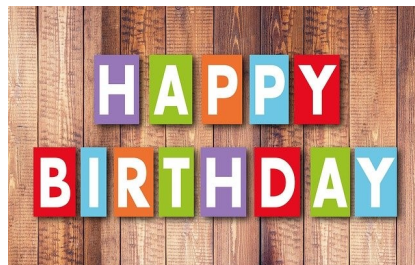
<u>Date</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Year-to-</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 1,778	\$ 21,606
General Fund Offerings	\$21,335	\$168,782
Rent / Utilities Income	1,445	21,050
Interest Income - Undesignated	<u>14</u>	<u>201</u>
Total Undesignated Income	22,794	190,033
General Fund Expenses	<u>(22,396)</u>	<u>(161,103)</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ 398</u>	<u>\$ 28,930</u>
Total 2020 budget, including ministry quotas	\$ 273,588	
Year-to-Date Budget for 9 months	\$ 205,191	
Total Undesignated Income	<u>190,032</u>	
Income Over (Under) Budget	<u>\$ (15,159)</u>	



## Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 12,500

Payroll Protection Program: \$ 26,700



- 1 Del Bosman
- 4 Mike Boer
- 5 Alice Brakke
- 6 Bekah Roberts

- 11 Don Vanderpol
- 17 Diane Button
- 27 Pat Bosman
- 31 Joe Pruitt

# October 2020

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

				1	2	3
4 9:30am Worship Service Communion Offering: General Fund	5	6	7 Elders Mtg Deacons Mtg	8	9	10
11 9:30am Worship Service Offering: General Fund	12	13	14 7pm Council Mtg	15	16	17
18 9:30am Worship Service Offering: Out-reach Fund	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 9:30am Worship Service Offering: General Fund	26	27	28 7 pm Pre-budget Mtg	29	30	31
--- Family Promise Week Oct 26 - Nov 1 ---						