

# **BETWEEN SEEDTIME AND HARVEST**

**Senior Adults Newsletter  
Christ Covenant Church  
June 2020**



## **GRACE TO YOU**

by  
**Pastor Bruce Creswell**

### **SEEING DAD NOW**

*Maturity = Experience, Understanding, Insight & Perspective*

It was thirty years ago last month that Dad went to be with the Lord. Although only 59, it was his third heart attack. He was too young, and there was still much I wanted to know from him. Not only was he young regarding his age, but as a Christian. He had just been saved four years.

Mom and Dad were married in the living room of the parsonage in 1952. Over the next seven years, we moved from Baltimore to Ashland, Kentucky to Roswell, New Mexico then back to Baltimore, hoping to find a better job and suitable climate for Dad's asthma. When American Can Company folded up, he went to work as a postal clerk for the next twenty years.

Even in those days, delivering mail in the inner city of Baltimore was no picnic. You had to be on your guard, especially the first of the month when Social Security checks came in. It was always safer to drive than to walk with that big bulging mail bag and cooler during those hot and humid summer days in Baltimore. When we were without a car, both Mom and Dad took the Number 3 bus to go and come from work.

We were "bona fide" blue-collar Baltimoreans having a distinct accent/dialect, as well as a certain abruptness in our speech. But that was no reason to be ill-mannered, disrespectful, or inconsiderate to others. All three of us children were schooled in manners, to have respect for our elders, and to be good listeners when in their presence. You could say we illustrated that "children should be seen and not heard!"

Though a man of few words, Dad had a strong influence on all of us. He taught us the importance of thinking on our feet and to "hope for the best but plan for the worst," which helps to soften the disappointments that may arise. Though not outwardly affectionate (that changed when grandchildren came on the scene!), he did speak with a fondness of his older relatives. At my ordination, I remember he said to me, "Hat (his grandmother) would be proud of you." She was the domineering matriarch of the family who lived with them, but this time she was just Dad's grandmother.

When the Lord saved Dad, he was very much a new creation in Christ. By that time he had retired, and they lived in St. Petersburg, Florida. He loved his grandchildren and enjoyed them, and I knew he did. When they visited us or we visited them, there was grandfatherly love and care for them. He made toy chests for Mary and Bruce. Then came the heart attack that took him. Though I grieved, I was angry, because my children would not have him around in their lives.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

Looking back through the lens as his son, husband, father, grandfather, and senior, I do see Dad in a clearer light. As my understanding has deepened over the years, so has my love and appreciation for him. A more "balanced" perspective has emerged as to why he did what did, why he fathered the way he did, and why he was the man he was. In looking back, I have discovered that I am more of "a chip off the old block" than I realized!

Looking back through your lens do you see your dad in a clearer light?



*June 21, 2020*

### **HYMN HISTORY**

*Submitted by Peggy Dear*

### **O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING**

The original title of this hymn was "For the Anniversary Day of One's Conversion." Charles Wesley wrote it on May 21, 1749, the eleventh anniversary of his own conversion. Before they were converted, John and Charles Wesley were dubbed "methodists" because of the methods of spirituality they had introduced in their club at Oxford, the Holy Club. But later John and Charles met German Moravians who loved to sing, were very missions-minded, and emphasized a personal conversion experience.

One of the Moravian leaders, Peter Bohler, once said, "Oh, Brother Wesley, the Lord has done so much for my life. Had I a thousand tongues, I would praise Christ Jesus with all of them." This was the inspiration for Charles Wesley to build a hymn to celebrate the date of his own conversion.

Charles had known from childhood that Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for sin. But on May 21, 1738, he accepted and applied it personally-- "His blood availed for me."

**Scriptures: Psalm 145:2-3; Psalm 150:6; Isaiah 35:4-6**

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
To spread thro' all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,  
'Tis music in the sinners' ears; 'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood availed for me.

He speaks, and listening to His voice, new life the dead receive;  
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ;  
Ye blind, behold your Savior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*



## BOOK REVIEW

*Submitted by Betty Williams*

### CORONAVIRUS AND CHRIST

*By: John Piper*

*Crossway Press, 2020 (100 pp.)*

The prolific Christian author, Dr. John Piper, has written another excellent book meant to encourage and comfort us as we endure the crisis this virus has become. His purpose is to help explain how God is in charge and what He is doing with this worldwide scourge.

We can know that the same God who has sent this virus is also the God who sustains us through it. "Though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love..." (Lam. 3:32-33) And although it may seem like God has abandoned us, He is working out His plan every day and hour.

Then Piper suggests 6 things God is doing during this time. These are not new ideas. For instance, he says, "God is giving the world in the coronavirus outbreak, as in all other calamities, a physical picture of the moral horror and spiritual ugliness of God-belittling sin." God is giving us a vivid picture of what "global devastation and misery" has become since sin entered our world. (Rom. 5:12). There are 5 other Scriptural admonitions following this one.

Finally, Dr. Piper writes that we should use this global event to encourage and help others through this time. God will not waste this and neither should we. We should see this as an opportunity to spread God's word worldwide.



## Thrive over 55 Senior Living Expo

*Please note that the date has been changed to  
**August 14<sup>th</sup>.***

## SENIORS MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

For the month of June, there will be:

- NO First Friday Luncheon
- NO Ladies Luncheon
- NO Men's Luncheon
- NO Joy Singers

We pray that we will soon be able to join each other in fellowship and activities and that this virus that is keeping us all at home will disappear and not cause any more sickness.

### NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

Articles for the July newsletter are due to Jane Yancey no later than June 20<sup>th</sup>. Please send them to her at [jane@yancey.com](mailto:jane@yancey.com)

## SAVE THE DATE for the Senior Retreat!

September 22-25<sup>th</sup>

at Bonclarken Conference Center

in lovely Flat Rock, NC

Guest Speaker: Paul Engle



### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1	Jo Ann Woodie
3	Linda Avery
5	Steve Sperry
9	Barbara Kinney
11	Josie Barlaan
12	Bob Paffenroth
18	Phyllis Lupo
19	Elizabeth Messina
24	Bev Cochrum
24	Carol Stoudenmier
25	Brad Wyman
26	Debby Arnold
27	Jane Stone
28	Russ Eppley
29	Ellen Bertelsen



### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

4	Barney & Nancy Megargee
6	Donn & Dottie Toney
7	Sang & Frances Lee
9	Bruce & Carolyn Creswell
10	Marv & Pam Eash
12	Danks & Renee Seel
14	Bob & Jane Stone
14	Tom & Terri Theyson
15	Forest & Barbara Price
15	Ken & Carol Bodwell
18	David & Ginny Cullen
18	Mark & Josie Barlaan
29	Jerry & Judy Pinkard

**Coram Deo Sunday School Class:**

Sundays: 9:00 AM, WC 201 (Choir Room)

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## My Morning Prayer

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24)

"O God, for another day, for another morning, for another hour, for another minute, for another chance to live and serve Thee, I am truly grateful."

Do Thou this day free me

from all fear of the future,  
from all anxiety about to-morrow,  
from all bitterness towards any one,  
from all cowardice in face of danger,  
from all laziness in the face of work,  
from all failure before opportunity,  
from all weakness when Thy power is at hand.

But fill me

with Love that knows no barrier,  
with Sympathy that reaches to all,  
with Courage that cannot be shaken,  
with Faith strong enough for the darkness,  
with Strength sufficient for my tasks,  
with Loyalty to Thy Kingdom's goal,  
with Wisdom to meet life's complexities,  
with Power to lift me to Thee.

Be Thou with me for another day, and use me as Thou wilt.

For Christ's sake I pray. Amen.  
*Wallace Fridy*

