

# The Air Hill Breezes

July

2021

Air Hill BIC Church  
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Office Hours Mon.— Fri. 8-12

## Midsummer Checkup

Renovare recently sent out this excerpt from a book called A Testament of Devotion by Thomas Kelly. Thomas Kelly lived from 1893 to January 17, 1941. He died before his book was published. He was an American Quaker educator. His words challenge us to go deep into God. Here is the excerpt Renovare took from A Testament of Devotion:

*Let me talk very intimately and very earnestly with you about Him who is dearer than life.*

*Do you really want to live your lives, every moment of your lives, in His Presence?*

*Do you long for Him, crave Him?*

*Do you love His Presence?*

*Does every drop of blood in your body love Him?*

*Does every breath you draw breathe a prayer, a praise to Him?*

*Do you sing and dance within yourselves, as you glory in His love?*

*Have you set yourselves to be His, and only His, walking every moment in holy obedience? I know I'm talking like an old-time evangelist. But I can't help that, nor dare I restrain myself and get prim and conventional. We have too long been prim and restrained.*

*The fires of the love of God, of our love toward God, and of His love toward us, are very hot. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and soul and mind and strength."*

*Do we really do it?*

*Is love steadfastly directed toward God, in our minds, all day long?*

*Do we intersperse our work with gentle prayers and praises to Him?*

*Do we live in the steady*

LOVE the LORD  
your GOD  
with all your heart  
with all your soul & with all your mind  
Matthew 22:37

## AIR HILL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

"To Follow Jesus Christ through the Wind of the Holy Spirit"

*peace of God, a peace down at the very depths of our souls, where all strain is gone and God is already victor over the world, already victor over our weaknesses? This life, this abiding, enduring peace that never fails, this serene power and unhurried conquest, inward conquest over ourselves, outward conquest over the world, is meant to be ours. It is a life that is freed from strain and anxiety and hurry, for something of the Cosmic Patience of God becomes ours.*

*Are our lives unshakable, because we are clear down on bed rock, rooted and grounded in the love of God? This is the first and the great commandment.*

*Do you want to live in such an amazing divine Presence that life is transformed and transfigured and transmuted into peace and power and glory and miracle? If you do, then you can. But if you say you haven't the time to go down into the recreating silences, I can only say to you, "Then you don't really want to, you don't yet love God above all else in the world, with all your heart and soul and mind and strength." For except for spells of sickness in the family and when the children are small, when terrific pressure comes upon us, we find time for what we really want to do....*

*Much of our acceptance of multitudes of obligations is due to our inability to say No. We calculated that that task had to be done, and we saw no one ready to undertake it. We calculated the need, and then calculated our time, and decided maybe we could squeeze it in somewhere. But the decision was a heady decision, not made within the sanctuary of the soul. When we say Yes or No to calls for service on the basis of heady decisions, we have to give reasons, to ourselves and to others. But when we say Yes or No to calls on the basis of inner*

guidance and whispered promptings of encouragement from the Center of our life, or on the basis of a lack of any inward “rising” of that Life to encourage us in the call, we have no reason to give, except one — the will of God as we discern it. Then we have begun to live in guidance. And I find He never guides us into an intolerable scramble of panting feverishness. The Cosmic Patience becomes, in part, our patience, for after all God is at work in the world. It is not we alone who are at work in the world, frantically finishing a work to be offered to God.

*Life from the Center is a life of unhurried peace and power. It is simple. It is serene. It is amazing. It is triumphant. It is radiant. It takes no time, but it occupies all our time. And it makes our life programs new and overcoming. We need not get frantic. He is at the helm. And when our little day is done, we lie down quietly in peace, for all is well.*

Pastor John

### **July Spiritual Exercise:**

Ask God to show you people who need a little compassion. Do at least one act of compassion each week in the month of July.

Daily prayer: Father, give me the heart of Jesus and the eyes of Jesus so that I may respond with the compassion of Jesus through your indwelling Spirit.

### **JULY 2021 BIBLE READING PLAN**

1	Col. 1:1-14	14	1 Thes. 3:7-13
2	Col. 1:15-29	15	1 Thes. 4:1-10
3	Col. 2:1-7	16	1 Thes. 4:11-18
4	Col. 2:8-15	17	1 Thes. 5:1-11
5	Col. 2:16-23	18	1 Thes. 5:12-28
6	Col. 3:1-14	19	2 Thes. 1:1-7
7	Col. 3:15-25	20	2 Thes. 1:8-12
8	Col. 4:1-9	21	2 Thes. 2:1-12
9	Col. 4:10-18	22	2 Thes. 2:13-17
10	1 Thes. 1	23	2 Thes. 3:1-5
11	1 Thes. 2:1-9	24	2 Thes. 3:6-13
12	1 Thes. 2:10-20	25	2 Thes. 3:14-18
13	1 Thes. 3:1-6		

### **Church Board Highlights**

- A motion was passed to accept Brotherhood Insurance’s recommendation to ask weddings and wedding receptions of persons outside the church to obtain \$1,000,000 liability insurance and to exclude funerals and private parties.
- The board discussed the social distancing section and unanimously agreed to continue to have that section designated for social distancing.
- The missions committee asked the board to have a special designated offering for each Sunday in July to help replenish the Global Compassion Fund. The board motioned to accept this request.
- The board also motioned to give an additional \$2500 to the Global Compassion Fund.



## BIC US GLOBAL COMPASSION FUND

(May 2021) Brethren in Christ U.S. has released \$65,089 from the Global Compassion Fund to provide relief for families in Northern Mozambique who are currently experiencing a growing food crisis which has been exacerbated by insurgent-led violence.



For the past four years, a militant group has been growing more active in the Cabo Delgado region of Northern Mozambique. The violence surged heavily in early 2021 and forced thousands of people across the region to flee their homes and livelihoods. Many have found shelter in and around the city of Pemba where several BIC congregations have welcomed these refugees into their communities.

This increase of in-country refugees has amplified an already-existing food crisis. Since 2019, Mozambique has been impacted by large cyclones, devastating flooding, and extended seasons of drought. In Pemba, where most rely on subsistence farming, these natural disasters have destroyed crops and disrupted future planting cycles. Families in the area are struggling to find ways to provide for this influx of people as food was already extremely scarce.

We have partnered with local BIC leaders in Pemba to distribute aid to nearly 800 families connected to BIC congregations. The funds have provided food to help sustain them until their next harvest in February 2022.



(December 2020) As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect communities around the world, we have been listening closely to our global community for opportunities to provide continued aid and support.

In May 2020, we reported that over \$36,000 had been distributed from the Global Compassion Fund to meet needs around the world. Since then, we have released an additional \$27,578 to groups acutely feeling the pain of the pandemic. These monies have gone to our partners in El Salvador, Mexico, the Navajo Nation, Spain, and multiple additional locations in partnership with Mennonite World Conference.

For those who have lost work because of COVID-19, basic necessities like food are the biggest concern. Mike Cassel, regional administrator for Latin America, says, "Many people have lost their ability to earn an income due to social distancing requirements."

In El Salvador, Pastors Cesar Catalan and Tito Melera received \$1,914 to make food packs for local families that lost work. The two congregations distributed 135 food packs that included rice, beans, cooking oil, salt, and sugar. Further north, the BIC Church in Mexico received \$2,648 to purchase supplies for food packets which were distributed to 300 families in need.

COVID food insecurity is not limited to people overseas. The Navajo Nation, which includes areas in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, has been one of the U.S. populations hardest hit by the

(cont.)

pandemic. Through BIC missionaries in the region, we distributed \$1,502 for a wide variety of needs including groceries and WiFi upgrades for a single mom and her four kids who are schooling from home.

We were also able to support a house church that meets on the Navajo Reservation. “Our Sunday morning house church group of approximately 15-20 people has chosen to continue in-person meetings for now,” wrote Jason Oberholser, BIC missionary in New Mexico. Compassion funds purchased cleaning supplies and individually-wrapped food items to contribute to ongoing safety measures for this small church gathering.

Over the past several months, compassion funds have also been used to support the BIC church in Spain. The church was seeing growth before the pandemic, but active participation decreased significantly due to strict lockdown orders. They received \$6,514 in compassion funds to help them cover the cost of their facilities.

Year-to-date, (Dec. 2020) over \$64,000 has been committed from the Global Compassion Fund to address needs directly related to COVID-19. Thanks to your ongoing generosity, we’re able to continue meeting physical needs of brothers and sisters around the world. Thank you!

***During the month of July, you can help replenish the Global Compassion Fund. Each Sunday in July, you may designate on your giving envelope in the Special For section by writing...“Global Fund”.***

***If you don’t use a giving envelope, there will be blue envelopes in the back of the church labeled “Global Fund”.***



WOW! We had an incredible time at our walk for Life this year, both at Waynesboro and at Fayetteville. Thank you to everyone who took the time to walk and to everyone who donated. We are thrilled to share that we have raised \$25,000 between cash, checks, and pledges! These funds will go so far in offering hope and help to families in our community. THANK YOU!

Join us on July 17th @ 7:00 pm in the sanctuary to worship God through David Crowder music.

Mark your calendar for **Roxbury Camp Meeting.**  
July 30th - August 8th  
Brochures are in the back of the sanctuary.

**Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 2 Timothy 2:4**

We must always be prepared as believers to represent Christ to a world longing to see Him. This time of year, most of my time off from regular ministry duties often finds me working in one of our several gardens. Recently, after spending most of a hot and dirty day in the community garden I was looking forward to finishing up and getting home for a shower and a good meal. But I was interrupted by a couple that was randomly driving by and had questions about our garden. It was tempting to brush them off to get on to more important things. But the Holy Spirit prompted me to take time to visit with them. As I conversed with Marvin and Lucy I discovered that they were unchurched, but seemed to be longing for a deeper connection with God. We exchanged connect info and agreed to stay in contact. Please join us in praying for Marvin & Lucy, and the many other unchurched people of our community who are searching for something more. Pray that people would connect with one of our cell groups where they can experience Jesus.

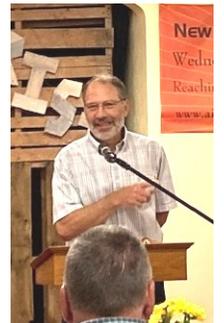
How about you, how is God using you in unexpected ways to touch a hurting world? If you haven't had any recent encounters, I encourage you to boldly ask God for opportunities.

Jason Oberholser and Family

## **The Shepherd Ministry Continued Training**

Psalm 78:72 " And David Shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them"

On Friday June 11, 7:00 p.m. the Shepherd Ministry had our second Shepherd's Training and Fellowship by Pastor John entitled "Knowing Your Sheep"



We were encouraged to learn 5 areas of our sheep. Their strengths, heart, attitude, personality, and experiences. By knowing these things, it helps us to be a better shepherd. All this takes time and we must Look, Love, Listen, Learn, and Lead.

Following our training we had circle time where we shared concerns, joys and prayed for each other.

A time of fellowship and refreshment followed with homemade vanilla ice cream and fresh strawberries. Every shepherd present received a flower to plant and enjoy.

Philippians 4:13-14 But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind, and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.



# July 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3
4 9 am S.S. 10 am Worship	5	6 1 pm Ladies Bible Study 6:30 pm Prop. Mgt. Meeting 7 pm Praise/ Prayer	7	8	9	10
11 9 am S.S. 10 am Worship	12 7 pm Church Boad	13 1 pm Ladies Bible Study 7 pm Praise/ Prayer	14	15	16	17
18 9 am S.S. 10 am Worship	19 7 pm Ministry Board	20 1 pm Ladies Bible Study 7 pm Praise/ Prayer	21	22	23	24
25 9 am S.S. 10 am Worship	26 7 pm Children's Ministry Meeting	27 1 pm Ladies Bible Study 7 pm Praise/ Prayer	28	29	30	31