

The Air Hill Breezes



2020

Air Hill BIC Church
7041 Cumberland Hwy.
Chambersburg, PA 17202
267-3373
airhilloffice@gmail.com
Office Hours Mon., 8 am - 1 pm
Wed. - Fri. 8am - 1 pm

I came across this story as I was studying, but did not have time to use it during my sermon series on Congregational K'nex. Enjoy the story of God's love.

Dr. Pennel stepped out of the door of the hospital. A group of men were coming toward him with a stretcher. "Who are you bringing?" he asked them as they lowered the stretcher in front of him.

The men shrugged. "We don't know. We found him lying by the side of the road. He is seriously hurt. Do you have room for him, Sahib?"

The doctor bent over the man on the stretcher. He could tell from his clothing that he was a member of the Patau tribe, which was always at war with the surrounding population. "Bring him in," the doctor said. "For him, we have a bed."

After the patient was settled, Dr. Pennel came to examine him. "Sahib," the patient moaned, trying to tear the bandage off his eyes. "Give me back my sight. Help me to see. Then I can go find the man who did this to me and kill him. I want revenge. After that I do not care whether I can see or not. I just want revenge. My enemy took my eyes. He will pay with his life. There is nothing more powerful than revenge."

The doctor sat down beside him and said, "My friend, let me tell you a story. Many years ago, the British government sent an envoy to Afghanistan by the name of Captain Connoly. However, he never reached the capi-

tal. On a lonely stretch of road, he was seized by a group of outlaws. They took away his baggage, bound him, accused him of espionage and threw him in prison. He had no idea what would happen to him."

"Weeks and months passed. The guards routinely mistreated him. He was given very little to eat. The only light in his cell came from a hole in the ceiling. In his misery, he had only one comfort. It was a little prayer book the guards allowed Captain Connoly to keep. He had received it as a farewell gift from his sister when he left England. The prayers and songs comforted him, for in them he felt the presence of Jesus in his cell with him."

"The prayer book also did something else. For you see, Captain Connoly was able to persuade the guards to give him a pen. He filled the margins of that little book with reports of his experience as a prisoner. He wrote of the mistreatment, the beatings, and the starvation. And he also wrote of his faith that God would see him through."

"A whole year went by. The last entry in the book was made by someone else. It said that Captain Connoly had been brought out of the prison, publicly flogged, and then forced to dig his own grave. He was never seen again after that. No one except his captors knew of his execution. In vain his family and friends and the government of England searched for news of him, all to no avail."

"Twenty-one years passed. Then one day, a British officer was sauntering along the

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AIR HILL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

"To grow a healthy, loving, Christ centered church family that has a passion for reaching the community and the world for Christ"

Cont. from pg. 1

streets of Bucharra, a city in central Afghanistan, when he stopped in a second-hand store. Among the odds and ends, he discovered an English prayer book with all kinds of entries in the margins. There was also a name written in the back of that book, with an address in England. The officer thought that perhaps that little book might be of some importance to someone, so he sent it back home."

"And that is how Captain Connolly's sister learned of his fate. With great anguish, she read the account of his imprisonment and was moved by his faith in God. 'What should I do?' she asked herself. The terrible injustice done to her brother cried out for revenge. For holy revenge."

"She was not a wealthy person, but she sent all the money that she could to this very hospital with these instructions: 'Please keep a bed free at all times for a sick or wounded Afghani

and use the money to take care of him until he regains his health. I am doing this in the memory of my brother who suffered at the hands of the Afghans and who died in their country.'"

As you might expect, when the doctor finished his story, there was a heavy silence. The doctor put his hand on the shoulder of the blind man and said to him, "You, my friend, are now lying in that bed. That you are being cared for is the Christian revenge for the death of Captain Connolly."

For the first time in his life, that Afghan soldier who so passionately desired revenge and who throughout his life had so resolutely rejected the message of Christ, sensed a power stronger than hate. It is the power of Christian love - love made real through faith in Christ.

("Revenge In Afghanistan," from sermon "Faith In Christ" by Rev. Lee Griess, Luther Memorial Lutheran Church; Omaha, Nebraska)

Pastor John

The Gospel Challenge: November

The challenge: This year read and meditate through the gospels. Begin each day (you may choose another time) and for at least 15 minutes read and ponder the gospel reading for the day. Before you begin each reading, ask God to help you know Jesus more. For added benefit to your life, write down every insight you gain from that time or from your thoughts about the gospel as you think of it throughout the day.

Each month I will give you the next month's readings. (It will take three months to go through each gospel.) Note: I will give you 25 readings for a month. If you miss a day, you may catch up another day.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. John 7:37-44 | 10. John 9:26-41 | 19. John 12:12-19 |
| 2. John 7:45-53 | 11. John 10:1-10 | 20. John 12:20-36 |
| 3. John 8:1-11 | 12. John 10:11-21 | 21. John 12:37-50 |
| 4. John 8:12-20 | 13. John 10:22-42 | 22. John 13:1-11 |
| 5. John 8:21-30 | 14. John 11:1-16 | 23. John 13:12-17 |
| 6. John 8:31-47 | 15. John 11:17-37 | 24. John 13:18-30 |
| 7. John 8:48-59 | 16. John 11:38-44 | 25. John 13:31-38 |
| 8. John 9:1-12 | 17. John 11:45-57 | |
| 9. John 9:13-25 | 18. John 12:1-11 | |

Plan created by NavPress as part The Discipleship
Journal Reading Plan
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10.23.20

Nippon NEWSFLASH



“O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like You, in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart”
2 Chronicles 6:14

“I started to have interest in the Bible”

What an exciting thing to hear from a junior high student who attended our International Café. Thank you so much for your prayers for the International Café Event! Each of our Christian students had an opportunity to share the gospel in Japanese with the guests at their table. For some of them, it was the first time they shared the gospel with someone. One student said that he was surprised how smooth it went after he started sharing. For some of our guests, it was the first time they heard the gospel. Each of the guests filled out a survey at the end to give us an idea of who is interested in learning more about the Bible. Now, as our regular café continues, we have a better idea about how to reach out to each guest.

Graduation!

It is crazy to think that another year of SYME has come and gone already! This weekend we celebrated the graduation of Peter. Peter came as a student in January this year, trusted Christ in the summer, and now is planning to enter a university. He is also thinking about the possibility of going to a Bible College to further his biblical understanding and strengthen his faith. Please pray for him as he has some big decisions to make.

Word of the Month: The first character in “gospel” means blessing. The second character means sound. So the gospel is the “sound of blessing.”
福音 (fukuin) gospel



Peter has graduated! But more importantly he is going home a new man in Christ!

Praises & Prayer

Praise God for Dominic's salvation! It happened on the last day of SYME!

Praise God for an excellent International Café event. Praise God that the gospel sharing time was a confidence and faith builder for our saved students!

Pray for more students for next year. We would love to have 10-12.

We played games, practiced English, ate tasty treats from around the world, and shared the gospel at International Café!



Karina Thrush 1-11-3 K Plaza 309, Tadera, Himeji, Hyogo, Japan 670-0086 thrushkarina@gmail.com

FROM THE OBERHOLERS



Hello friends far and wide.

Below are several updates and prayer requests from our family.

A lot of our children's regular activities continue to be altered or put on hold because of Covid. However, we are very grateful for the opportunities and activities they are still able to participate in. Christy is in 8th grade, Abby in 7th, Jessie in 5th, Caleb in 3rd, Josh in kindergarten, and Amos is doing pre-school! Besides their regular school lessons with mom, the children take piano lessons with a friend and attend special tutoring sessions with a neighbor weekly. Bekah also leads a homeschool group consisting of other moms and children from our local community. This small group meets once or twice a month for social interaction. Pray for this group to have wisdom and creativity to provide engaging activities while keeping everyone safe.

Our garden did very well this year. We sold a lot of produce at our local farmers market; we also canned, dehydrated, and froze a lot for use this winter. We were also grateful for the various friends who invited us to pick apples from their trees. We made a lot of cider this year and had fun sharing it with others.

Our family has partnered with our colleagues Ben & Eunice Stoner and others to give leadership to an existing house church group that has already been meeting for regular worship and fellowship. We see this as one more step in our goals for creating house churches capable of multiplying. This group desires to become an authentic group that doesn't just meet once a week for praise & worship, but a group that becomes the body of Christ making a daily impact in our community. Please pray for the "C" family as we counsel them on the topics of marriage, salvation, and baptism. They are a Navajo family that's still young in their faith, but eager to grow.

Aside from our Sunday morning group, Jason and Bekah each meet regularly with a handful of individuals and families for spiritual encouragement. Some of these encounters occur electronically, others in person. We are praying that each of these people would grow in their walk and that they would eventually join an existing group or create a group in their home to invite their friends and neighbors to attend.

Jason continues to see positive developments in his role as fire chaplain. We donated a lot of produce to the fire department that was in turn sold to raise money for various needs they have. Through the various activities and events that he attends, department members are beginning to open up to Jason and trust him with important aspects of their stories. We are praying that these interactions don't just merely lead to him being a good chaplain, but that these opportunities would eventually result in people getting plugged into a cell group and growing in their walk with Jesus!

Like other parts of the country and around the world, the State of New Mexico is seeing a spike in the number of new Covid cases. This has caused the governor to impose new restrictions in an effort to control and suppress the virus. Pray for those in the medical field working to care for sick patients; pray for families who've lost loved ones. There are also growing tensions in our state between those who believe the governor is doing a great job and those who believe she is only a strict dictator who's making our lives miserable. Pray for the peace of Christ to rule in hearts as we all walk through these unprecedented times. Pray for our family to make wise and bold decisions to demonstrate love of others above our own opinions and desires.

Blessings to all!

Jason, Bekah, Christy, Abby, Jessie, Caleb, Josh, & Amos

We serve with Brethren in Christ U.S. World Missions. Contributions preferred for our ministry may be sent to BIC U.S., 431 Grantham Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-5812 or donated online

Church Board Highlights

- The church board discussed the leadership roles they are responsible to fill. Some still need to be filled.
- Margaret Burkholder has accepted to be nominated for a 2 yr. term as deacon.
- A motion was made to increase the Pastor's salary to \$42,000/yr. and increase pension to \$4,200/yr.
- A motion was made to increase the Secretary's wage to \$16/hr.
 - Both motions were passed.



Ready to Pay the Price

Inzali has led many Buddhists to Jesus Christ in Myanmar. And her bold witness on the front lines has caught the attention of Buddhist leaders, who often report her evangelistic activities to local authorities.

While concerned that her work will one day lead to her arrest, she remains joyful. She knows that her arrest would simply be a sign that her work has been effective.

"The more we share the gospel and preach the Word all over the world, the more trouble we'll have," she told a VOM worker.

May we seek and thirst after You, God, and proclaim Your Good News, here in our home town, as others are doing in areas of the world risking their livelihood and their lives.

*"You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.
Psalm 63:1-3*

Thanksgiving Fun Facts:

- The first Thanksgiving was actually a three-day affair.
- The Colonists and Native Americans may not have had turkey at their feast.
- Thomas Jefferson refused to declare Thanksgiving a holiday.
- In 1939, Thanksgiving was celebrated on the third Thursday instead of the fourth Thursday.
 - A Thanksgiving mix-up inspired the first TV dinners.
 - Most Americans prefer Thanksgiving leftovers to the actual meal.



Ministry Highlight

CROSS Inc. (Christian Residential Opportunities and Social Services) was founded in 1985 by the Peace churches of the Cumberland Valley. Grace Ebersole was instrumental in the formation of CROSS Inc. Leroy and Grace Ebersole have a daughter, Dorcas who has intellectual disabilities. They knew they would need to plan for her future so she rallied the community and CROSS was born. Dorcas still lives at Grace Home (named for Grace Ebersole) today.

In July of 1987 the doors of Grace Home in Pinola opened to four residents. In 1992 in conjunction with the Franklin County Builders Association an additional four rooms were added as well and an office complex. The ministry of Cross expanded to 8 residents.

Griffith House in St. Thomas, Franklin County was given to CROSS in 1996. The property has 150 beautiful acres and six adults call Griffith House their home. House parents provide the security and stability the residents need. Griffith House is licensed for six adults.

Cumberland Visa opened their doors as a third home January, 2006. Eight more residents were added to the CROSS family. Cumberland Vista is in Cumberland County near Dillsburg on the property of Cumberland Valley BiC church.

Although CROSS provides quality care for each of our residents, that is not our primary function. We “do life together” states their Director, Jim Roberts. “We believe that everyone including our residents is created in the image of God, therefore, has great value. As “image bearers” our residents have something to offer the body of Christ. Our residents have something to teach us and we only learn those lessons if we are with them. It is our privilege to “do life together”

CROSS is uniquely Christian in its philosophy and operation. Daily devotions are part of the resident’s life as well as weekly church involvement. CROSS works hard to find staff that understand this unique perspective and support it by their lifestyles.

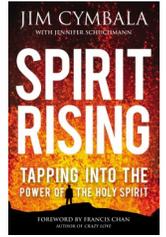
In addition to the three homes, CROSS sponsors Coffee Houses exclusively for those with special needs as well as two summer camps for youth and adults with physical and/or intellectual disabilities. These are for the residents of CROSS and friends from the community who wish to participate. Both have been very popular and have served as an excellent outreach for CROSS

Your prayers make a huge difference- please continue to hold us up in prayer. Pray for the residents and staff. Pray that we do not miss the lessons God is sending our way. Thank Him with us for His great provision.

Most Needed Items at CROSS:

- Gift Cards - Target, Walmart, Sheetz
- AA & AAA Batteries
- Decaf Tea Bags
- Fresh Fruit or Canned Fruit
- Juice, Granola Bars
- No Tears Shampoo
- Dawn, Liquid Dishwasher Liquid
- Deodorant, Mouthwash
- Clorox Wipes, Laundry Detergent
- Corelle Dishes, Flatware
- Tall Kitchen Trash Bags
- Snack for Lunches (peanut butter cracker, pretzels, trail mix)
- Cans of Soup/Broth (beef stew, chili, onion, mushroom)
- Ziploc Bags Whole Wheat Pasta, Cereal, Brown Rice, Quinoa, Barley
- Toilet Paper, Napkins, Tissues

Excerpts from “Spirit Rising” by Jim Cymbala of the Brooklyn Tabernacle



The Importance of Fellowship

When we read the writings of some of the great Christian leaders from a hundred years ago or earlier, we see that there was a strong emphasis on two-way fellowship between the Lord and his people. They wrote about not just spending time praising and thanking God, or even petitioning Him, but also about spending time just waiting in His presence and listening for His voice....

...We have no better model for this than Jesus, who “often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” (Luke 5:16)...

...my worst days in life didn’t happen because I lost my relationship with God, but because I had no time for fellowship—fellowship through the Word, fellowship in prayer, in waiting on God, in talking to God, in listening to God. When we run around so much, we’re weakened; we have less faith, we have less grace, and we have more stress. There is something about being with Jesus, being in God’s presence, that helps us have more peace and joy...

...When we spend time with God, we should want to do more than just present a list of requests—we need to listen for His voice. Someone once said, “What’s more important: ? Us telling God our requests, which He already knows before we tell Him, or us listening for His voice, to hear what is on His heart?”

This book belongs to Pastor John and it’s about “tapping into the power of the Holy Spirit”. Even reading the foreword makes you think about your Christian walk. Consider this from the very first paragraph in the foreword:

Every Sunday millions of people sit bored in church services. Even the churches that spend a fortune on production and put on a great show eventually dissatisfy. But think about something: Is it possible to be bored of the Holy Spirit? If He was truly moving, would we ever look at our watches? So...isn’t boredom a sure sign of the Spirit’s absence?

Spirit of the living God,
Fall fresh on us.
Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall fresh on us.

Submitted by Sandy Bender

November Spiritual Exercise: Be thankful with a twist.

For each of the first 26 days of November write down things for which you are thankful.

On November 1, write down things or people for which you are thankful that begin with the letter A. On November 2, list things or people for which you are thankful that begin with the letter B. Keep on going until Thanksgiving. On that date, November 26, you will write down things for which you are thankful that begin with the letter Z.



You may do this as an individual, family unit, or even with a friend or two.

NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9 am Worship 10:15 S.S. 11 am Worship</p> 	<p>2 6:30 pm Child Protection Meeting</p>	<p>3 6:30 pm Prop. Mgt. Meeting 7 pm Praise/Prayer</p> 	<p>4 6:30 pm Youth Group/Kingdom Kids</p>	<p>5 6-8 Gym in Use</p>	<p>6 6-8 Gym in Use</p>	<p>7 9:00-12:30 Shepherd Training</p>
<p>8 9 am Worship 10:15 S.S. 11 am Worship</p>	<p>9 8:30 am Ladies Sewing 7 pm Church Board</p>	<p>10 7 pm Praise/Prayer</p>	<p>11 6:30 pm Youth Group/Kingdom Kids</p> 	<p>12 6-8 Gym in Use</p>	<p>13 6-8 Gym in Use</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 9 am Worship 10:15 S.S. 11 am Worship</p>	<p>16 7 pm Ministry Board Meeting</p>	<p>17 7 pm Praise/Prayer</p>	<p>18 6:30 pm Youth Group/Kingdom Kids</p>	<p>19 6-8 Gym in Use</p>	<p>20 6-8 Gym in Use</p>	<p>21 11-3 Gym in Use 1-8 Annex in Use</p>
<p>22 9 am Worship 10:15 S.S. 11 am Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 7 pm Praise/Prayer</p>	<p>25 6:30-7:30 Gym set us</p>	<p>26 4:30-10:00 Gym in Use</p> 	<p>27 4-8 Gym in Use</p>	<p>28 11-5 Gym in Use</p>
<p>29 9 am Worship 10:15 S.S. 11 am Worship Orville Hade Speaking</p>	<p>30</p>					