



THE LINK

LINKING GOD AND HIS PEOPLE, EACH TO THE
OTHER, TO CHRIST JESUS OUR SAVIOR AND LORD

PASTOR'S NOTES

PASTOR JAMES W. CARLSON

My precious sheep:

I like to share with people my experience working at Kroger supermarket back in Indiana. I worked at Kroger from 1993-2003. I worked there part-time while I was attending college and seminary. I worked at the front-desk. The front-desk was the place where we took all the complaints. I received many complaints in my ten years working there. Here's how it often transpired: a customer would approach my window upset and begin venting their frustrations at me about some employee or product in the store. Sometimes, it got pretty heated. But I knew I couldn't react angrily in return – both because I was a Christian and because I didn't want to lose my job! I knew Proverbs 15:1 and I would seek to implement this verse in my interactions with angry customers. Proverbs 15:1 says, "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." Thus, I would attempt to respond in gentleness. I would listen to what they had to say, gently affirm their complaint and apologize, and offer some incentive to mollify their anger. Most times (not always) it worked; the customer would calm down and sometimes even apologize to me for being so angry. The truth of the Bible works in real life!

For this month's issue of the Link I want to talk about gentleness. Do you know that gentleness is an important Christian virtue? It is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:23). What is gentleness? Gentleness (or meekness) is kind, restrained speech and behavior toward others. The opposite of gentleness is anger and a lack of self-control. Gentleness means soft. But don't mistake this meekness for weakness. Proverbs 16:32 puts it this way, "Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city." Gentleness is true strength.

IN THIS ISSUE:

PASTOR'S NOTES - 1
POEMS - 3
BIRTHDAYS/CLASSES - 4
MINISTRY NEWS - 5
PRAYER CONCERNS - 6

THE MISSION OF CCC:

"WORSHIPING GOD, GROWING,
SPIRITUALLY, SERVING OTHERS,
INVITING FRIENDS"

****The Church is open for Worship Service
on Sunday Morning at 11 AM .
Also please check out our Facebook page to
watch the worship service live
11 AM on Sunday.**

GUEST WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS

Login: CCCGuest

Password: ChurchonFire

CONT'D...

Jesus was gentle. Jesus says of Himself in Matthew 11:29, “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” Jesus is gentle and humble in heart. The heart is what matters most (remember Mark 7:20-23). When we are gentle and humble in heart, it will come out in our words and actions. Then we will find true rest for our souls. When we’re angry and arguing and fighting with people, there’s no rest in our souls. Gentleness brings rest.

It is important that we maintain a Spirit of gentleness as Christians. This, I believe, is one way that we can be salt and light to our culture (Matt 5:13-16). We should be counter-cultural. Would anyone say that gentleness characterizes our culture these days? No! The opposite is true. Now as a Christian, I certainly believe in truth, and moral absolutes, and that we should hold to these resolutely. Yet, the Bible repeatedly urges us to speak to our opponents in gentleness. This extends to all of our interactions – with family, friends, co-workers, in the church, and on social media. Consider two more powerful biblical passages on gentleness.

The first is Hebrews 5:2. The context is about how church leaders should interact with others. It reads, “He (the church leader) is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness.” Do you know anyone whom you would label “ignorant?” In today’s world I imagine we could produce a long list of names. The Bible says deal with that person gently.

*"The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27:1*

The second text is 2 Timothy 2:24-26. It reads, “And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be GENTLY instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.” Look at some of these phrases. Opponents of Christianity are under the trap of the devil, taken captive to do his will (the devil is called “the god of this age” in 2 Cor 4:4), not in their right senses. I think this ought to generate some empathy in us for our opponents. We should pray that God will grant them repentance.

Gentleness is not easy; but it’s not impossible. Pray that the Holy Spirit would ripen His fruit of gentleness within you, and over time you can grow in this virtue. Remember the second part of our mission and vision is GROW (“growing spiritually”).

Grace and Peace, Pastor James



Awakening

Birth is the awakening in awe of a beautiful world
A welcome with love for a promising future
This is in response to nature embracing life
Happiness expressed in the face of a child is enthralling
To build upon another life is indeed rewarding
A life in sharing flows with nature's composing theme
All we contribute to life is enhanced forthwith
Looking beyond the exchange of life in anticipation
Life and death are subsequence to nature's cyclic curve
Life in part and confidant is nature's very being
The very energy of nature's propelling force
But nature wisely retains guiding control
A relationship that holds fast with mutual respect
Humanity bring life's burden is commendable
Facing risk and pain for balance of time
So necessary for function of this complex world.

By Edward S. Murphy

Ever Closer to Thee

*His spirit was in deep agony.
His soul, full of grief and sorrow,
as He prayed in earnest,
knowing His tomorrow.
Oh, Heavenly Father,
Jesus cried, in the garden of Gethsemane.
His tears fell, with nary a sound,
like great drops of blood, on the ground.
He had come to the garden to pray,
and nothing could save him from his fateful day.*

*Jesus had reached the mountaintop,
He had walked on the Sea of Galilee.
He had healed the lepers,
and made the blind to see.
He had touched the untouchable,
...and then He died for you and me.*

*For, all that you have done for me,
the least I can do, is give my heart to thee.
And in my hour of need,
may I draw ever closer to thee...*

written by, Dianne Ingle



HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

BIRTHDAYS

- May 7th: Jenifer Gallegos
- May 7th: Stacey Moyle
- May 9th: John Moulton
- May 9th: Dave DeGroot
- May 12th: Becky Robbs
- May 14th: Jean Varner
- May 16th: Mary East
- May 17th: Diego Felix
- May 20th: Nate Gallegos
- May 22nd: Annastasia Birr
- May 28th: Nicole Darling
-

CLASSES & STUDIES

Classes/Groups for Spring:

SMALL GROUPS - in person & online

- 1) A Women's group led by Leslie Kielkowski - will start a new Study on 2 Corinthians "**All Things New**" on Tuesday April 20th at 7pm.
All are welcome!
- 2) A Women's Bible study led by Pat Baker on **Ephesians 4** - will start on April 7th and will be in the Fellowship Hall Wed. mornings at 10 am.
- 3) A men's group led by Chris Morin, "**A new study coming soon**" on Thursdays at 7pm.
- 4) A study through the book of **Esther** on Wednesday's at 7pm.
A group for everyone led by Pastor James (jamescarlsonsr@gmail.com).

****This class is facilitated via the church's Facebook Page.***

Directions:

When you sign up to be part of a group, you will email the group leader. Then, they will send you an email inviting you to join their small group. This email will include a link that you press on and, voila- you can join. It will ask you to run the program on your computer, and after a couple clicks, you'll be in the chat room. If you have questions about how to use this, contact your group leader or Pastor James (626-476-5543) or the church office (801-825-1115).

HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

MINISTRY NEWS

- Rocky Mountain Care Center Ministry

Please Come join us every Friday at 10:30 AM for a half hour of song and a message from the speaker that day with patients. **Canceled until further notice.*
Any questions you may contact Eileen or Dennis Richards 801/825-3471.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: CLEARFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH (CCC) IS SEEKING TO HIRE A WORSHIP LEADER. INTERESTED CANDIDATES ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT CCC BY PHONE (801-825-1115).

A COPY OF THE POSITION DESCRIPTION CAN BE PROVIDED BY EMAIL ADDRESS UPON REQUEST.

PLEASE PRAY FOR GOD TO SEND US THE RIGHT WORKER TO SERVE AS OUR NEXT WORSHIP LEADER. "ASK THE LORD OF THE HARVEST, THEREFORE, TO SEND OUT WORKERS INTO HIS HARVEST FIELD." (MATT 10:38)

**MEMBERSHIP CLASS HAS BEGUN
MEETING IN ROOM 8
CONTACT PASTOR JAMES IF INTERESTED.**

**PLEASE GIVE TO THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS)
OFFERING STARTING THIS SUNDAY. THERE WILL BE
OFFERING ENVELOPES IN THE CHAIRS FOR THIS. OGHS
HELPS IN POORER COUNTRIES WITH DISASTER RELIEF,
REFUGEE WORK, AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE**

THE OUTREACH TEAM IS CONTINUING THEIR PROJECT. WE ARE COLLECTING ITEMS TO HELP PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY. WE ARE PROVIDING A LIST OF ITEMS WE NEED. WE WILL ALSO ACCEPT MONETARY DONATIONS. THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR HELP. FOR THE MONTH OF MAY WE ARE COLLECTING FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS, TOILET PAPER, AND DEODORANTS.

HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

PRAYER CONCERNS

May 2021

Ronald Branham, Kevin Branham, Sue Carlson,
Kaylin Terry, Kathy Knighton, Eric Palmer, Lynn McCarthy,
Pat Call, Linda Manning, Jamie Richards, Stuart Simmons,
Jean Varner, Bob Roberts, Mike Mann, Matt Tobey, Travis
Jeffery, Mark MacDonald, Edith Aleman, Barrett Wellington,
Ervin Herdt, Bill & Marte Hazelwood, Evie Guzman,
Dennis & Naomi DeGroot, Marilyn Simon, Jessica Woeppel,
Susan Woeppel, Angelika Bertrand, Traudy Sanborn,
Jean Moneymaker, Jane Kelting, Tonya Brandler,
Audrey Otrumbar, Marci Woeppel, Bob Schellhase, Pat Zabel,
Joe Umbriaco, Jackie Ross, Wilma Bowen, Andrew Milito

"Rejoice
always, pray
without
ceasing, give
thanks in all
circumstances;
for this is the
will of God in
Christ Jesus for
you."

1 Thess 5:16-18

WE STARTED A PRAYER MEETING ON SUNDAY MORNING AT THE CHURCH (9AM - ROOM #10). WE FOCUSED ON THE FOLLOWING THREE PRAYER REQUESTS. WE ARE ASKING THAT YOU FOCUS ON THESE PRAYER REQUESTS EACH WEEK THROUGHOUT THIS MONTH OF MAY DURING YOUR OWN PRAYER TIME.

- 1) PRAY THAT WE WOULD LOVE ONE ANOTHER (JOHN 13:34-35; EPH 3:17-19; PHIL 1:9)**
- 2) PRAY FOR UNITY IN THE CHURCH (JOHN 17:20-21; EPH 4:1-6)**
- 3) PRAY THAT WE WOULD FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER AND ALL WHO HAVE WRONGED US 70 X 7 (MATT 6:12, 14-15; 18:21-35; EPH 4:32; COL 3:13)**

