

GOD'S PLAN FOR SAVING US

God's Grace - Ephesians 2:8
God's Love and Mercy - Ephesians 2:4
Christ's Blood Shed - Romans 5:9-11
The Gospel - Romans 1:16

Our Response of Faith:

Believe - Acts 16:31; Mark 16:15-16
Repentance - Luke 13:3
Confession - Romans 10:10
Be baptized for remission of sins -
Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21
Be faithful, committed, walk in the
light - Revelation 2:10; 1 John 1:7

...God's Faithfulness con't from pg. 3

There's nothing like a story to bring to life the issues of this tension between God's way and the way of the world, of searching for the pathway of faith in times when evil seems rampant and life seems unmanageable. A practical example of God in action can be of enormous benefit in sustaining the believer and enabling him or her to cope with the uncertainties and apparent meaninglessness of much of what we experience. I trust that each of us will be able to identify with the Bible story of Naomi and Ruth in some personal and practical way.

Whatever our circumstances, I believe that all of us can benefit from our own experience with a faithful God. The book of Ruth has been called "the most beautiful short story in the world." In many respects, it deals with ordinary people and unimportant matters. Yet it deals with them in such a way as to show that God is active in the affairs of human beings. God works his purposes out and blesses those that put their trust in him.

If its message had to be summarized in one word, it could be the word "faithfulness", in the sense that God is there - God cares, God rules and God provides. But faith in such a God is the common factor to all the incidents in the book. As we look at the experience of Naomi, we will be able to trace the work of God's faithful care. The story occurs during the time of the judges of Israel, when the cycle of disobedience, defeat, and deliverance happened over and over again. God is faithful.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!



A Weekly Publication of the Horse Cave CHURCH OF CHRIST

120 Cave Street
Horse Cave, KY 42749

TIME OF SERVICES (CST):

Sunday: Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Wednesday: Bible Study 6 PM

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In Loving Memory of Lois Huff Edwards

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There are not enough words to express the heart break we feel over the unexpected death of our sister Lois. She was a faithful member of this congregation for many years. Death has now claimed eight this year. Lois was truly a special inspirational lady. She embodied Christ living in her. She was a wonderful mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Her light still shines.

She is survived by two sons, J. Steven Huff (Shirley) and Scott K. Huff; four grandchildren, Isaac Huff (Jennifer), Joel Huff (Beth), Kyla Stinson (Thomas) and Conner Huff (Camby); seven great-grandchildren Chandler Huff (Matea), Brinley Huff, Bryson Huff, Wyatt Huff, Greyson Rosser, Graham Rosser & Hallie Stinson; sister-in-law Corene Richardson, step-daughter Janie Sue Bybee (Billy), step-daughter-in-law Helen Edwards, special friends Della Broady, Ruth Bradford and Becky Bush. A Celebration of Life was conducted by Billy Bybee and Wayne Hatcher on Thursday.

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NEWS & NOTES...

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Doris Wallace is doing well after her back surgery; Malon Schuler recuperating at home; Becky Hatcher dialysis 3X times a week. Her surgery to relocate a vein in her arm for the fistula is Thurs. Dec 28; Wayne is her Caregiver; Billy Bybee; Jackie Coop fell and hit his head; Becky Bush; Mike Thompson; Joyce Dye is having melanoma skin cancers removed from her back; Brenda Jaggars has not felt well; Mary Whittington has been back in the hospital, but is home' John & Candice Eastridge & Emily have had COVID; Dixie Napier's son Randy; Joey Palmore; Helen Edwards in Bowling Green; Don Waddell (member at Center); Steve Seaton; Terry Bunnell; Mary Hatcher; Parker Bybee; Ron Hogan recovering in Anchorage from back surgery

Continued prayers for our families and friend who have lost loved ones who will have empty chairs this holiday season.

BARREN COUNTY HEALTHCARE Glasgow
Ruth Bradford

PRAY FOR MISSION EFFORTS WE SUPPORT

Nepal and Bangladesh - Michael Brooks
Manna Project

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS 10 a.m.

We are in our Winter Quarter studying the book of *Esther*. Today is lesson 4: "Prepared For Presentation" *Esther 2:12-23* Wayne will be the teacher

PREACHING TODAY

Wayne at 11 a.m. sermon: "Key Events That Impacted the World" #3 - *The Death of Christ on the Cross*

5 p.m. Abbreviated service and devotional

WEDNESDAY NIGHT 6:00

Our monthly singing and devotional

OUR RADIO PROGRAM

We are pleased to sponsor "*In Search of the Lord's Way*" heard on our local radio station WLOC 101.7 FM and 1150 AM each Sunday morning from 8:30 - 9:00 with **Phil Sanders**.

Please pray for this work as the seed of the gospel is being sown in this ministry.

NOTE: If you are unable to pick up the radio signal, you can log on to **wloconline.com** You may choose to listen on your computer or use the **tunein** app for you mobile devices.

Potter Children's Home & Family Ministries Commodities Outreach

We have been asked to donate any of the following pantry items:

Granola Bars *Cooking Spray* *Rotel*
Onion Powder *Crackers with Peanut Butter*

checks or cash are also accepted to buy perishable items

Your help as we have done for years will be greatly appreciated. Pantry items will be picked up **the week of Jan. 7, 2024**

Take Up Your Cross

by Joe Chesser

Everyone knew where Jesus was heading when he was being led through the streets of Jerusalem carrying his own cross. Everyone knew he was heading for Golgotha (the place of the Skull – John 19:17) where criminals were crucified. Carrying a cross for all to see was a part of the cruelty of a crucifixion. It not only was painfully exhausting, it was also an intentional public humiliation. People watched and pointed. People yelled things that were harsh and heartless. Carrying your cross to your crucifixion was never intended to be something done privately. It was out in the open for all to see.

Likewise, Christianity was never intended to be something kept secret. Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke

9:23). To "take up his cross" meant a public execution to those who heard Jesus speak these words. To be crucified with Christ was not intended to be kept within the safe confines of a church building or a friendly church environment. No, to take up your cross and follow Jesus means to openly acknowledge Jesus as your savior and as your life. Jesus also said, "I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God" (Luke 12:8-9).

To acknowledge Jesus before men means much more than our confession of faith before baptism. It certainly includes that, but to acknowledge Jesus means that our lives are lived openly for the public to see our faith. It means we are to let our lives be like a light to the world, not hidden under a bowl, but up high for all to see (Matthew 5:14-16). It doesn't matter if they point and stare. It doesn't matter if they do not understand or agree. It doesn't matter if they speak ruthlessly, or even physically persecute us. It doesn't matter because we have died to ourselves. We no longer live. Christ is now living in us (Galatians 2:20), openly for all to see. We have taken up our cross and followed Jesus!

When people became Christians in the first century, they didn't go into hiding; they didn't retreat into communes or monasteries. They openly took up their own cross and followed Jesus! Jack Graham has said, "While salvation is intensely personal, it is never private; it is always public!" Everyone knew where Jesus was going when he carried his

cross. Do people know where you are going when you take up your cross?

The Story of God's Faithfulness

by Brian Mitchell

We need to develop a deeper appreciation for the faithfulness of the God we serve. The Bible declares that God is characterized by faithfulness. In Exodus 34:6, God says of himself, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness." Scripture also reveals the fact that God is faithful to his promises. Joshua told the people of Israel, "You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled..." (Josh. 23:14).

God's faithfulness can be clearly seen in the book of Ruth. The story of Ruth is told in a small, four chapter book, sandwiched between Judges and 1 Samuel in the OT. I want to begin by drawing our attention to a striking phrase in our Scripture reading from the book of Ruth - "The Lord came to the aid of his people" (1:6). The King James Version puts it: "The Lord has visited his people."

I think that it is fair to say that all of us have known the problems of life - and they come at all stages in life's journey. During those times, have you ever been tempted to ask, "Where is God?" When faced daily by more deadly news from the Ukraine or the death toll and destruction from the coronavirus or monkey pox, we sometimes wonder - Where is God? The matter becomes even more pressing when we are faced with our own suffering and losses in

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