



# Grace Notes

\*Welcome

\*Worship

\*Praise

## COVID GRACE NOTES APRIL 16, 2020

(Diaconate Devotional submitted by Bill Turnage)

### PSALM 23

Psalm 23 is well loved and known by Christians. Many of us memorized the verses using the King James Version. You may immediately recall the opening line, 'The Lord is My Shepherd, I Shall Not Want'. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm was the subject of the Sunday School lesson on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was cancelled due to the pandemic. How do we not 'want' in this season of affliction? If you have been to the store recently, you have noticed that our wants are many, including paper goods, hand sanitizer and anything else still on the shelves. The phrase, "My Shepherd" personalizes the role of Jesus to the level of each of us individually. We are assured that each of us whose shepherd is the Lord will lack nothing and the Lord will provide whatever is needed. See if you recall the other verses of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. When the 'news' is filled with unpleasantness, recall verses as "He makes me lie down in green pastures" or "He leads me beside the still waters" and "He restores my soul". This can 'dial back' the discord of these days. Psalm 23 has remained popular and meaningful for believes everywhere through the ages because it doesn't just work in one situation. It works in any given situation for anyone of us who believes!

And I (you) will dwell in the house of the Lord forever!

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For those who do not get to drive by the campus, here is a picture of the blooming crab apple tree that marks our 40 Days of Purpose study. The church home looks lovely.



### Good Morning Everyone!

We all know medical providers are on the front line of COVID 19. As you can imagine, they are tired and overwhelmed. They gain strength and encouragement from even the smallest form of thank you.

If you or your family are looking for a way to help in these crazy times, I know they would be very grateful for words of encouragement in a card or letter. If you would like to send one, please mail to: Lori Hill - - 26 NW 40<sup>th</sup> Street - - KCMO 64116

She has assured me she will get the cards/letters to the proper people at St. Luke's Hospital. Thank you so much, Jean Tysdal

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Church

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Bill Turnage  
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Juliann Hansen  
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Sunday School  
9:00 a.m.

Worship  
10:15 a.m.

Karen Worship  
2:00 p.m.

"For by grace you have  
been saved through  
faith, and this is not  
your own doing; it is  
the gift of God."

Ephesians 2:8 NRSV

April 16, 2020  
Volume 14-20

*This email came on Saturday before Easter from Ann and Bill Clemmer, our missionaries on the field in Goma, Congo:* (Submitted by Sandi McKee)

We received terribly sad news on Good Friday. For the end of the Ebola epidemic to be declared, 42 days have to pass from the release of the last patient.

Only 48 hours from the declared end (on Easter Sunday), a patient in Beni (where Bill has been working since October 2018) tested positive after succumbing to the disease yesterday.

We were so looking forward to the end of this, Congo's longest and deadliest outbreak. With the expansion of COVID-19 into eastern Congo, we had already made the decision to stay and pivot from Ebola to COVID...but now it looks we will be facing two fronts of seeming uncertainty.

But we, as do our colleagues here, know that God is in control. *And Sunday is coming!!!*

Love,  
Ann and Bill Clemmer, International Ministries  
Goma, D.R. Congo

*As we pray for the health and safety of our family, friends, church family, city, state and nation, let us also be in prayer for all of our missionaries around the world who are standing in for us on the front lines of health care.*

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No one knew how we would respond, no idea how we might behave in a pandemic. This is a new experience for all of us and we've seen people reacting to this crisis in all kinds of ways. The deniers still choose to ignore it all together, wishful thinking to the end. The down-players and conspiracy theorists play it calm and cool, citing a half dozen half-baked reasons why this is no big deal, but they are a minority I would guess. Most people take this pandemic seriously by degrees.

- The concerned citizen types are just staying informed and anxious to follow whatever protocol is recommended.
- Next comes the 24 hour news junkies hanging on every update, charting the body count as it rises around the world gradually coming closer and closer to where we live.
- And then, there are those we might call the survivalists, who rush to the store to stockpile a huge cache of groceries, hoard the toilet paper and grab the last six bottles of hand sanitizer.
- Finally, we can find the "apocalypse now" bunch standing in line at the gun shop to add more weapons and ammo to their personal arsenal. Gun sales have spiked significantly in this crisis.

Wherever you fall in these over-generalized descriptions, we all have one thing in common. What we all share is fear, a fear that ranges from a low-level anxiety to a debilitating worry to a can't-sleep-at-night kind of terror. We're only human and it makes sense that we would be afraid of an unseen enemy that can be just about anywhere undetected.

Let us believe and live the Bible during these unstable months:

- ***There is no fear in love. But perfect love casts out fear. (1 John 4:18 NIV).***
- ***God does not give us a spirit of fear, but of love, power and a sound mind. (1 Timothy 2:7)***

(Jerry Cain and Drew Hill)

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*Serving as the hands  
and feet of Christ*