

Happy 4th of July! 'The Prayer 20/20 Impact' July 5th, 2020

*Dear Praying Friends, and Partners In Prayer Team, and
whole Church Family,*



"For we live by faith, not by sight."

2 Corinthians 5:7-9 (NIV)

*"For this reason, since the day we heard about you,
we have not stopped praying for you."*

Colossians 1:9 (NIV)

Who turned up the heat, right?! It's July! As we flip the page of the calendar this week from the month of June into July, we will finally embark upon the longer and hottest days of summer. The temperatures are climbing, the sun is beating down and everything in my garden is growing by leaps and bounds. Sometimes it seems the tomatoes and squash plants have gained six inches overnight! I have a feeling that I'm going to be overwhelmed with a bumper crop of zucchini, so if you are interested, please let me know! And the crop of peppermint tea planted in a small bed next to our house is ready to pick and that means we can have a cup of tea almost any time, piping hot or refreshingly cold.

So, with summer here and so many events cancelled because of the Covid-19 restrictions, what can we do for some fun time? Has anybody else wondered, "Why do we call it green, when it doesn't mean go back to normal? Why do we call this stage green when we are still restricted with masks and limits on our business and worship attendances?" I came across some lockdown "humor" for us to laugh the time away.

- People are using the word "lockdown" because they don't know how to spell "kwarinteen."
- Ontario has banned groups larger than five. If you're in a family of 6, you're all about to find out who's the least favorite!
- Health Tip: If you keep a cup of coffee in each hand, you can't accidentally touch your face.
- This is crazy. I just tried to make my own hand sanitizer and I'm up to my elbows in bubbles.



- Have you noticed that the amount of selfies being posted is down by 68%? (People don't want pictures when they look worse and not their best).
- After a few days of not going out, I saw someone I knew walking by on the sidewalk outside. I immediately ran to the window and started yelling to them. Now I understand dogs.
- These days conversations by Zoom and phone are difficult to end; twice I have said, "Okay, I have to run," then realized there is no place to run to!
- I'm pretty sure I just heard my fridge say, "What do you want now?!"
- I hope all the school teachers realize their students will return to class using "old" math. Right? If we are left to teach them what can they expect?
- Sign found at a fast food parking lot in Boston: "Parking for drive-through customers only"

(The Fishwrapper, June 2, 2020)

As we also see the summer turning up the heat, what do we do when we see the political media outlets also turning up the heat? Are you weary of the fighting and the contradictions that we constantly see? What can we do? I have two things I just want you all to remember:

1. Remember in Christ we are free! We are all free indeed, and that is something to celebrate! Scripture reminds us: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1). The fear to anyone who has found freedom, is to be caught again and that freedom taken away. Spiritually, we as believers have found freedom in Christ from our sin and penalty of death and hell. We are given a new life in Christ. That is what our new study on Colossians will bring out for us. Colossians 1:27 is our key verse: "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27 NIV).

That is what we are celebrating during this weekend. What is our "Fourth of July" celebration about? It is about finding our democratic freedoms from a monarchy and tyrannical ruling government. One Fourth of July weekend was fast approaching, and Miss Pelham, the nursery school teacher, took the opportunity to tell her class about patriotism. "We live in a great country," she announced. "One of the things we should be happy about is, in this country we are all free!" Trevor, who was a little boy in her class, was

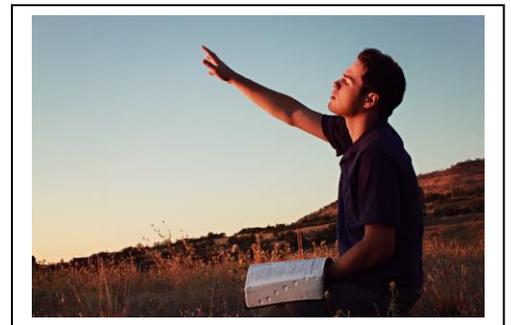


visibly discouraged by her statement. He put his head down and began to weep. She walked to his desk and tried to comfort him. He jumped up with his hands on his hips and said loudly, “Miss Pelham, I am not ‘free!’ I’m four! And my mommy said so!” *(Wait for it.)

We live in a society that seems to be more and more upset listening to the news. I’m getting to the point that I don’t want to listen or even see the news. But isn’t it wonderful that Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of all the earth? Isn’t it wonderful that He is the King of glory! (Psalm 24:8-10). And we can trust Him and the freedoms He has given us until we reach heaven! Robert Strauss was once heard to say about today’s government leaders: “All leaders are little ants floating on a log caught in a rushing current downstream, and they all think they are in charge of the ship.” We know it isn’t true! Jesus is our glorious God of Eternity, past, present, and future and we can trust Him to be in control of our freedoms no matter what happens on this earth!

2. Remember to pray for our freedoms not to be taken away! In Colossians 1 Paul shared his conviction to pray for the believers of Colosse, “We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people—the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel” (Colossians 1:3-6). Notice that the prayers and the reputation that this church carried were summed up in three words: “faith, love, and hope.” Would you pray that our church will have this same reputation? I honestly don’t know what reputation this church has along the 611 corridor, but I will pray that we are a people who show great faith, love, and hope.

The following story is from an online sermon illustration that I happened to find while searching for “faith illustrations.” I don’t know if it is true, but I think we get the idea.



“A small congregation in the foothills of the Great Smokies built a new sanctuary on a piece of land willed to them by a church member. Ten days before the new church was to open, the local building inspector informed the pastor that the parking lot was inadequate for the size of the building. Until the church doubled the size of the parking lot, they would not be able to use the new sanctuary.

Unfortunately, the church, with its undersized parking lot, had used every inch of their land except for the mountain against which it had been built. In order to build more parking spaces, they would have to move the mountain out of the back yard.

Undaunted, the pastor announced the next Sunday morning that he would meet that

evening with all members who had "mountain-moving faith". They would hold a prayer session asking God to remove the mountain from the back yard and to somehow provide enough money to have it paved and painted before the scheduled opening dedication service the following week.

At the appointed time, 24 of the congregation's 300 members assembled for prayer. They prayed for nearly three hours. At ten o'clock the pastor said the final "Amen". "We'll open next Sunday as scheduled," he assured everyone. "God has never let us down before, and I believe He will be faithful this time too."

The next morning as he was working in his study there came a loud knock at his door. When he called "come in", a rough looking construction foreman appeared, removing his hard hat as he entered.

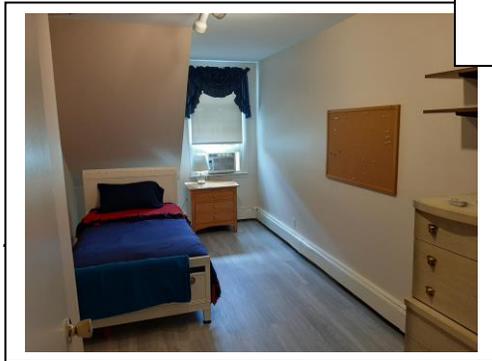
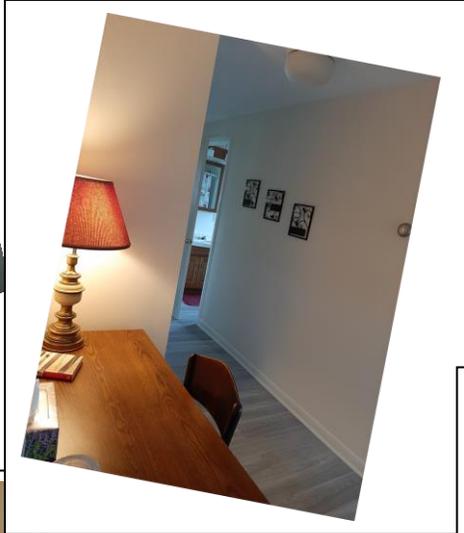
"Excuse me, Reverend. I'm from Acme Construction Company over in the next county. We're building a huge new shopping mall over there and we need some fill dirt. Would you be willing to sell us a chunk of that mountain behind the church? We'll pay you for the dirt we remove and pave all the exposed area free of charge, if we can have it right away. We can't do anything else until we get the dirt in and allow it to settle properly."

The little church was dedicated the next Sunday as originally planned and there were far more members with "mountain-moving faith" on opening Sunday than there had been the previous week! (Mountain Moving Faith, Author Unknown).

Lord, with things coming out of our State as mandates and out of Washington, we must keep mountain-moving faith as we pray for our church. I want Christ to be seen as our greatest hope!

I am glad to report that we have four Haycock Staff Ladies taking up our Missionary Housing upstairs. Again, I thank you all so much for your part in making that ready. I want to include some photos of the apartment so you can see the great job that has been done. The ladies will stay with us through the end of July. Pray for them also! Many from the church have even given food cards to them so they can have food to stock up on. Thanks PCBC for showing the love of Christ in such a tangible way.





Let's Pray

“Our Father above, we are so glad for our freedom that is in Jesus Christ. We thank You that by our love for Christ we are witnesses as light and salt into this world that is constantly trying to find ‘freedom from sin, guilt, despair, and darkness.’ That Christ is our only ‘hope!’ Help us as Your church to be “little Christ-ones” in representing His love, and faith, and truth. Help us through the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit fight off the darkness and those things that kill our freedoms. Let us manifest Jesus through our love, gifts, fruit, and light- that others may know Christ more! Help us get to know our Savior more and more! May He be the greatest priority of our lives- and be our best friend, love and Savior, we ask this through His lovely Name, Amen.”

**In faith, love, and hope,
Pastor Corvin <><**

Quote: “If we are going to represent Christ in the world so that others will know Him, we have to be people who love.” ... Dr. David Jeremiah

"How can we turn our knowledge about Christ into knowledge of Christ? The rule for doing this is simple but demanding. It is that we turn each truth that we learn about God into matter for meditation before Him, leading to prayer and praise to God." ... J.I. Packard (Knowing God).

Getting to Know



Jesus

