



October 2024



Wednesday's Word

A WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL
FROM PAUL TRIPP

PaulTripp.com

PART 4

Love. Know. Speak. Do. These are four essential elements to a discipleship relationship—or any friendship, for that matter—if you are willing to be used by God to help another person experience the transforming power of grace.

Last month, we discussed speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) and the importance of providing gentle, patient, and ongoing rebuke.

But here's my concern and observation: most personal ministry relationships stop at Speak. We quit too soon.

Love. Know. Speak. DO.

Most of us are tempted to think that change has occurred before it actually has. We confuse growth in knowledge and insight with genuine life change.

While vitally important, hearing and receiving the Truth is only the beginning. Insight alone is not change; biblical knowledge should not be confused with active, biblical wisdom.

The Truth about who we are,

who God is, and what he has given us in Christ must be applied to the heart and life of the person we are helping change.

In two decades of seminary teaching, I met many brilliant, theologically astute students who were incredibly immature in their everyday lives. There was often a vast gap between their confessional and functional theology.

Students who could articulate the sovereignty of God were paralyzed by worry. Students who could expound on the glory of God would dominate classroom discussions for the sake of their own egos.

I counseled students who could explain the biblical doctrine of progressive holiness while nurturing secret worlds of lust and sexual sin. Students who could explain the biblical teaching of God's grace were harsh, judgmental legalists.

Many young men who were months away from ministry could preach brilliantly on the love of God yet had little love for the real people they were about to start pastoring.

Don't be too quick to assume heart change has occurred just because acknowledgment or affirmation has been verbalized. Yes, we first need people to see, know, and understand, but we also need them to apply that insight to their daily lives.

For many people, it is much easier to know what is wrong than how to change it. A sister in the Lord may understand the major themes, truths, and promises of Scripture,

but she may not know how to use them in certain situations, struggles, and relationships.

A brother in Christ may have confessed a selfish, idolatrous heart and even seen and mourned how it negatively impacts his relationship with his wife and kids. But it will be much harder for him to think clearly and creatively about repenting and functionally loving his spouse and children in specific ways.

God calls the person not just to hear his Word but to actively do it as well.

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing" (James 1:22-25).

Continued on page 3

LEPC Mission Statement:

We at Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church, confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We prayerfully seek to do His will through the power of the Holy Spirit in our worship, discipleship, ministry, mission, fellowship and continually strive to make this church one that glorifies God and is pleasing to Him.



Pastor David Missel

585-658-1197 Residence
djmguided1947@gmail.com
585-382-3311 Church

It is our desire to assist anyone who is seeking help, if possible, whether it be spiritual or otherwise. Please contact Pastor David or any Session Elder if you would like us to be of help.

When Pastor David is unavailable:

Pastor David is presently scheduling Fridays as his day off so matters of less urgency could be left on the church office answering device, or call one of the Ruling Elders:

- George Briggs 585-382-3038
 - Patty Gregg 585-245-1311
 - Carol Griffen 585-382-3681
 - Shirley Matthews 585-382-3171
 - Cathy Mlyniec 585-322-6669
- Clerk of Session*
- Leo Richardson 585-382-3153

Other Contacts

LEPC website:

www.seekinggodtogether.com

LEPC Email Address:

grichardson001@rochester.rr.com

LEPC Food Pantry:

(by appointment only)
585-245-3448

Sunshine Person:

Cathy Mlyniec
cmlyniec@gmail.com

Greetings from Pastor David

Recently, my older brother, Stephen, moved from a nursing facility in North Carolina to one located in South Carolina. Because I, along with a friend of Stephens, Barbara, share co-power of attorney responsibilities, it was quite a challenge for us to manage all the particulars relating to this move. The fact I reside a long distance from Stephen and Barbara added to this major undertaking, say nothing about the other details of making such a move. The fact Stephen is a double amputee presented an additional challenge.

When the process of moving was finally completed and Stephen had settled into his new surroundings, I asked him several questions regarding the differences between his former “home” and his present “home”. He was quick to tell me some of the positive aspects to being in his present surroundings as well as a couple of things he didn’t like in being there. One of the things he didn’t like was the food. You see, Stephen is a diabetic and at his previous location he was allowed to eat snacks and food that didn’t help with managing his diabetes. However, at his new location they are careful to give him food that will assist with controlling his diabetes.

I found myself needing to remind him that he is being better cared for where he is than where he was. I also reminded him, that he could be thankful for the fact he is being better cared for.

He had to admit these things were true which changed his attitude regarding the food he was being served.

Have you ever noticed the importance of having a grateful attitude instead of complaining about things that bother you? God’s word, given to us in the Bible, instructs us to be thankful in all situations. To the believers living in Ephesus, Paul admonished them to *“always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (Eph. 5:20b).

The Scriptures are filled with reminders for the child of God to “have an attitude of gratitude” because, as a child of God we live a life of abundance.

Remember, this world is not our “home” we are on a journey to our heavenly “home” where there will no longer be death or mourning, or crying or pain, for Jesus will make everything new. For those whose names are written in the Book of Life, they will live and rule and reign with God forever and ever!

Rejoice, be thankful, and live in the promise that God is with us always.

“always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”

Ephesians 5:20b

Pastor David Missel

Continued from page 1

Don't confuse insight with change. Don't quit too soon. And don't give up on your friend when that process of change is slow.

Change is always a process, not an event. And that change takes place in 10,000 mundane moments of everyday life.

"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

A Prayer for Today:

God, help me to be a person who genuinely experiences growth and change in my life and not just a person who is able to talk about it with eloquence and knowledge. Help me also to care for others well and be patient with them, knowing that change is a process and not an event. By the power of your Spirit, help me not to quit at knowing, but help me to press forward into doing as well. In Jesus' name, amen.

God bless,
Paul David Tripp



Fatu Thoronka

Fatu is in the class of JSS1 at Mapainda Junior Secondary School in the Mayatta area, Sierra Leone.

Please continue to pray for Fatu and all the students and teachers at the schools in Sierra Leone.

Reflection Questions

1. Why is growth in knowledge and insight not the same thing as genuine life change? Why is it so dangerous to confuse biblical knowledge with active, biblical wisdom? Why is the application of knowledge and insight to our daily lives more important than knowledge and insight itself?

2. Why is it easy to confuse insight and knowledge with genuine life change? How have you been blind to this in your own life? How might God be calling you to help others see their blindness in their areas of sin?

3. If a friend of yours knows a lot about how to change, but never actually changes, how can you lovingly offer help to him or her? In what ways can you continue to love them and spur them on when the process of change is slow?

4. How can you encourage your friend in love to be a doer of the word and not just a hearer?!

Submitted by Leo Richardson

A New Way to Declare God's Power and Mighty Acts!

The Steeple would like to encourage everyone to reflect on God's "mighty acts" and then think of ways to share these reflections with others. Maybe writing is one way to do this.

We would like to give you an opportunity to write a couple paragraphs and submit it to the Steeple so others can be encouraged to declare the handiwork of God.

This could be something that has happened in your life, or from the Bible, or something that happens in nature. A good place to start is by reflecting on the past week and how God showed up and met you! Things you took for granted. Interestingly enough, it probably will lead you to a thankful and more humble heart!

The deadline for the November issue of the Steeple is October 20. Please submit your story to Sharon Richardson at srichardson002@rochester.rr.com, or give her a hard copy at church or by mail.

*"Since my youth, God,
you have taught me,
and to this day I declare
your marvelous deeds.*

*Even when I am old and gray,
do not forsake me, my God,
till I declare your power
to the next generation,
your mighty acts
to all who are to come."*

Psalm 71:17-18



“The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you.”

Mt. Moosilauke

By George Briggs

At 4800' in elevation, Mt. Moosilauke can be a challenging hike. It is only three or four miles to the summit, depending upon the route, but it is a pretty steep climb and the trail is rocky. What generally makes the climb notable is the view from the summit. Mt. Moosilauke is one of about fifty mountains in New Hampshire tall enough to produce conditions at the summit so severe that plant growth is limited. The summit landscape is dominated by rocks and boulders of varying sizes with a vegetation type called alpine tundra occurring in patches between the rocks and the scattered dwarf trees. Aside from the shrub-like trees, plant life consists of grasses, sedges and assorted wildflowers that are rarely over a foot in height. The last quarter mile of the trail up Mt. Moosilauke is through such an alpine meadow which provides excellent views of the forests below and the taller White Mountains to the east—but only if the summit is not in the clouds.

Growing up on the coast of Maine I was often in the clouds, i.e. fog, and where I lived was often transitional: if you turned right the fog thinned but if you turned left, heading towards the ocean, it thickened. As I hiked up Mt. Moosilauke on a May day long ago (listening for thrushes for an ecology project) the sky got darker and darker and by the time I reached the alpine zone I was immersed in a dense fog, so much so that I was glad that the trail was well worn and therefore visible, if only for 30 feet or so.



Photo by George Briggs

And then, in what seemed instantaneous, but probably occurred over ten seconds, the clouds blew off (?) dissipated (?) vaporized (?) and I was in glorious sunshine with an intense blue sky above me. And the transformation wasn't just visual, it was also audible—simultaneously the mountain burst into song, no thrushes, but seemingly dozens of white-crowned sparrows, chickadees and juncos. It was a sublime moment. And though these thoughts didn't come to me at the time, they do now:

Isaiah 55: *“For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*

Psalm 98: *Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the Lord.*

Can trees or rivers clap their hands, can the mountains sing for joy, can rocks cry out? I think so; and perhaps I've heard them. I wonder if I shall ever sense such a thing again. It won't be in the mountains for my climbing days are over, but perhaps

something similar will come as this did, 'like a thief in the night'.

God's Grace in a Time of Need

By Carol Griffen

The task before me was overwhelming. I had put it off for too long and I hardly knew where to begin. My in-law's house needed to be cleared out. By God's grace, I prayed for strength and wisdom and was able to take each day and do what I could. It is stressful, but I couldn't do it at all without God's help and the help of friends and family who gave up their time. The process is ongoing as a friend said, encouraging me.

A couple that might be interested in buying the house gave me the hope that an end is in sight. I pray that it will be completed, and by grace it will be. We can bring our needs, concerns, and failures to God. His grace gives us power and strength.

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

Psalm 28:7 niv

Monthly Celebrations

October Birthdays

- 6 Doug Welch
31 Bill Radley

Anniversaries (none listed)

Continued Prayers for:

*Pray for peace in Jerusalem.
May all who love this city prosper.
O Jerusalem, may there be peace within
your walls and prosperity in your palaces.
For the sake of my family and friends,
I will say, "May you have peace."
For the sake of the house
of the Lord our God,
I will seek what is best for you,
O Jerusalem.
Psalm 122:6-9 niv*

- Pray for Israel and the Middle East.
- Pray for all hostages and refugees throughout the world.
- Pray for all the "innocent" civilians caught in the middle of war.
- Pray against hatred throughout the world.
- Pray for our country/our leaders.
- Pray for our soldiers that are in harms way.
- Pray for the persecuted Christians around the world.
- Pray for our church and it's members and friends.

God's will be done!

Liturgists Signup for October

For those who want to read scripture during Sunday worship, please remember to sign the "Volunteer" list on the Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall so Pastor knows who is next in line to read.

Thank you and may God Bless!

Nourishing Words

Today's inspiration comes from: Settle My Soul

by Karen Ehman and Ruth Schwenk

The lips of the righteous nourish many. — Proverbs 10:21

There was once a monk who, like many followers of Jesus at the time, was looking for a deeper walk with God. This monk, Abbot Agatho, fled to the desert. The story goes that Abbot Agatho, aware of his temptation to sin with his words, carried a rock in his mouth for three years! He did so until he learned to be silent — or to control his lips.

I'm not ready to carry a rock in my mouth as a reminder to watch my words, but I am very aware of my own temptation to use my words unwisely. Because we serve a God who speaks and uses His words to bring life, we are reminded that our words really do matter. They matter in our marriage, our family, the workplace, our relationships, and our church. Our words really are an overflow of what is going on in our hearts (Luke 6:45), and they have the power to shape the hearts of those whom God has surrounded us with.

In Proverbs 10:21, the writer said, *The lips of the righteous nourish many.*

We can nourish those around us with words of encouragement.

With our words, we bring life, health, and good things to those we encounter. We make others better by what rolls off our tongue. With our lips, we are to avoid gossip, slander, malice, and idle talk, which steal life instead of nourishing it.

We can nourish those around us with words of encouragement. Speaking truth in love. Sharing our appreciation. Building others up with the truth and promises of God's Word. We nourish others when we speak with gentleness and compassion. We bring life when we choose not to speak words that could easily be used as weapons.

How are you using your words? Do your words bring nourishment to those around you? Take a moment and prayerfully consider how your words are bringing life or death to those you are closest to. Let's pursue the righteousness described in Proverbs — being one who uses her words to nourish not just some, but many!

Lord, You are a God who speaks. As I reflect who You are to those around me, help me use my words wisely. Give me grace to "nourish many" with my lips. I confess that my words are not always used in a way that honors You. Forgive me and teach me to love and serve those around me with the words You give me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Where do you struggle with your words the most? What is one way you can begin nourishing others with your words today?

~ Ruth

Excerpted with permission from Settle My Soul by Karen Ehman and Ruth Schwenk, copyright Karen Ehman and Ruth Schwenk.

Submitted by Carole Missel

Who Does the Saving?

Inspiration comes from:
Grace for the Moment Daily Bible
by Max Lucado

A man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

— Romans 3:28

If we are saved by good works, we don't need God — weekly reminders of the do's and don'ts will get us to Heaven. If we are saved by suffering, we certainly don't need God. All we need is a whip and a chain and the gospel of guilt. If we are saved by doctrine then, for Heaven's sake, let's study! We don't need God, we need a lexicon.

But be careful, student. For if you are saved by having exact doctrine, then one mistake would be fatal. That goes for those who believe we are made right with God through deeds. I hope the temptation is never greater than the strength. If it is, a bad fall could be a bad omen. And those who think we are saved by suffering, take caution as well, for you never know how much suffering is required.

It took Paul decades to discover what he wrote in only one sentence: *"A man is justified by faith."* Not through good works, suffering, or study.

~from *And the Angels Were Silent*

Our holiness account shows insufficient funds, and only the holy will see the Lord; what can we do?

Insufficient Funds

People cannot do any work that will make them right with God.

— Romans 4:5 NCV

If Christ had not covered us with His grace, each of us would be overdrawn on [our Heavenly bank]

account. When it comes to goodness we would have insufficient funds. Inadequate holiness. God requires a certain balance of virtue in our account, and it's more than any of us has alone. Our holiness account shows insufficient funds, and only the holy will see the Lord; what can we do?

We could try making a few deposits. Maybe if I wave at my neighbor or compliment my husband or go to church next Sunday, I'll get caught up. But how do you know when you've made enough?...

If you are trying to justify your own statement, forget ever having peace.. You are trying to justify an account you can't justify...

It is God who justifies.

— Romans 8:33

~from *The Great House of God*

The Strength of God's Love

God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

— Romans 5:8

"Can anything make Me stop loving you?" God asks. "Watch Me speak your language, sleep on your earth, and feel your hurts. Behold the Maker of sight and sound as He sneezes, coughs, and blows His nose. You wonder if I understand how you feel? Look into the dancing eyes of the kid in Nazareth; that's God walking to school. Ponder the toddler at Mary's table; that's God spilling His milk.

"You wonder how long My love will last? Find your answer on a splintered cross, on a craggy hill. That's Me you see up there, your Maker, your God, nail-stabbed and bleeding. Covered in spit and sin-soaked.

"That's your sin I'm feeling. That's your death I'm dying. That's

your resurrection I'm living. That's how much I love you."

~from *In the Grip of Grace*

Excerpted with permission from *Grace for the Moment Bible*, copyright Max Lucado.

Submitted by Carole Missel



October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Qualifications of a Pastor

The strength of an ox.
The tenacity of a bulldog.
The daring of a lion.
The patience of a donkey.
The industry of a beaver.
The versatility of a chameleon.
The vision of an eagle.
The melodies of a nightingale.
The meekness of a lamb.
The hide of a rhinoceros.
The disposition of an angel.
The resignation of an incurable.
The loyalty of an apostle.
The faithfulness of a prophet.
The tenderness of a shepherd.
The fervency of an evangelist.
The devotion of a mother.
... and when some congregations secure such a pastor, they seem to think he should live as economically as a canary.

George Caleb Moor

Submitted by Carol Griffen



Our Mission

The EPC exists to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus as a denomination of Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional congregations.

Our Vision

To the glory of God, the EPC family aspires to embody and proclaim Jesus' love as a global movement of congregations engaged together in God's mission through transformation, multiplication, and effective biblical leadership.

Our Motto

*In Essentials: Unity.
In Non-Essentials: Liberty.
In All Things: Charity.*

The Steeple Newsletter

is published monthly by the Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church, for the purpose of proclaiming that Jesus is Lord and that He is moving among his people here. Our intent is to keep the readers informed of local events, provide information to stimulate and edify it's readers, mixed with a touch of humor to lighten the day.

For those who would like a printed version of the church newsletters, we keep the last 2 months' issues in the brochure rack, on the wall to your right, as you exit the sanctuary to Fellowship Hall.

Submission Deadline:
The 3rd Sunday of the month.

Contact:

Sharon Richardson
srichardson002@rochester.rr.com
Leo Richardson
grichardson001@rochester.rr.com

Staying Connected: If anyone does not receive the Steeple Newsletter, participate in Prayer Chain Activations, receive church updates by e-mail, or has a change for the "Birthdays and Anniversaries" and wants to be included, please contact Leo Richardson.

OCTOBER Highlights Regular Session Meeting of 09/19/2024

Sharing Life, Spiritual Focus and Prayers for the Church:

Lots of physical and other needs have been experienced by many in the congregation. We were encouraged to keep each other in prayer. Session members prayed for those they knew who were in need.

Pastor's Report: Discussion revolved around what to do with the 4 weeks of vacation remaining on pastor's 2024 contract. Session approved to rollover one week of vacation from 2024 to 2025 for Pastor David. Other weeks will be used as future decisions are made. Pastor David introduced Session to "Revelation Children's Media Ministry". Material from this ministry were offered to Session members and also available to the congregation. Please see pastor about this if you're interested.

Worship: There may possibly be a joint Sunday Worship Service with the York United Presbyterian Church. Session rescheduled Communion for October 13, 2024. There will be a laity service on October 6th.

Witness Report: A "Welcome Basket" was given to a new resident of Cuylerville.

Missions: Session approved \$200 to support Hope for Renewal Church planting, and approved to support the Christian Motorcyclist Association in the amount of \$100.

Christian Ed: Berean Class reconvened from summer recess on September 8, 2024. They are studying a series, "*What Even Is Grace*" by Paul Tripp Ministries.

Property: A proposed contract from Davis Concrete LLC, to repair the church steps, was received on 9/15/2024, and forwarded to Session for review. Session approved the purchasing of the Cub Cadet lawn tractor from Cedar Street Sales and Rental of Batavia, N.Y. in the amount of \$3,099. Session approved the wording for Starr Park Lease Agreement with Kiwanis for September 2024-2029. Session discussed the sanctuary sound system and humming speakers. Further evaluation may be necessary. Session approved to purchase paint and rollers to paint the mower shed. Session approved the contract for sealing and re-striping of the parking lot and driveway by Ol Smokey Trucking & Excavating, LLC, in the amount of \$1,850. Session approved the use of Fellowship Hall for a program by the Alzheimer's Association to benefit LEPC and the surrounding community.

New Business: Pastor is having computer problems and is looking for help. Phone calls may be a better way to contact him until his computer problems are resolved.

Next Regular Session Meeting date was scheduled for October 10, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

Voice of the Martyr's:
icommittoprayer.com

August 15, 2024 | Turkmenistan

House Church Leader Threatened

Turkmenistan, a nation with a 94% Muslim population, is a profoundly restricted country in which Christian worship is limited to churches that are part of government-sanctioned denominations. Additionally, the Turkmen government exerts a high level of control on the entire population, especially upon Christians. Despite the governmental and societal restrictions, the gospel is proclaimed regularly in Turkmenistan through media and personal testimonies. Front-line workers report that one house church leader who has been sharing the gospel has come under increased pressure from authorities. Officials have been showing up at his home and church with photos of family members, their cars and their license plates in an effort to scare him into ending his ministry.

August 22, 2024 | Bangladesh

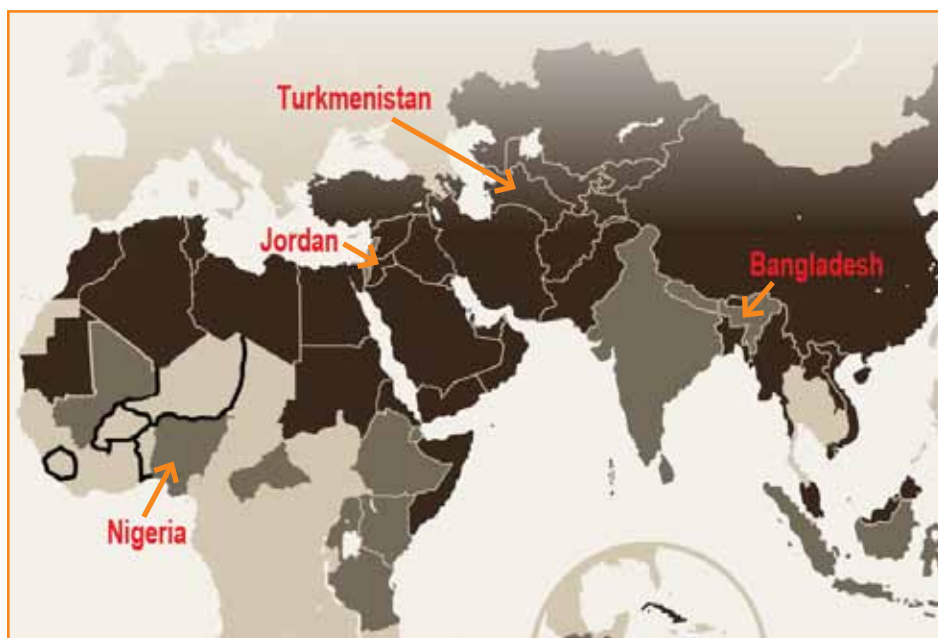
Unrest Sparks New Violence Against Christians

Political violence has escalated in Bangladesh, resulting in the resignation and flight of Prime Minister Sheik Hasina and at least 95 deaths on a single day (Aug. 4) in the capital city, Dhaka. Front-line workers report increased targeted attacks against Christians as a result. In one case, a church was attacked by an armed crowd that damaged vehicles and tried to set fire to the building early one morning. According to another report, several individual Christians in a northern district were attacked. Front-line workers request prayer for peace in Bangladesh and for the protection of Christian brothers and sisters who have been targeted by extremist groups taking advantage of the country's chaos.

August 29, 2024 | Jordan

New Believer Threatened by Family

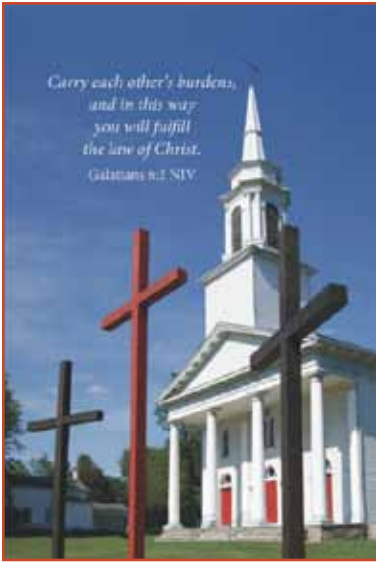
A Jordanian Christian has received death threats since coming to faith in Christ. While undergoing training to become an imam [an Islamic religious leader], the man placed his trust in Christ. His conversion angered members of his family, who have threatened his life if he doesn't successfully complete his training and move to a Gulf state to take up an Islamic post. "Your head will be on the street," one of his family members told him. Front-line workers have requested prayer for the new believer as they determine how to best serve him. Jordan is a majority-Muslim nation, and only 2 percent of its population are Christians. In addition to facing severe family pressure, Christian converts in Jordan can also be persecuted, sometimes violently, by their tribes and local communities.



September 5, 2024 | Nigeria

Hope and Healing After Husband's Murder

Gift is only 19 years old but has already endured more anguish than most people in a lifetime. The young bride from Jos, Nigeria, saw her husband shot to death by militant Fulani Muslims. The attackers then shot her in the hand. Pregnant at the time, she collapsed and was taken to a hospital, where her baby was delivered by cesarean session. After this distressing experience, caring Christians provided for her emotional and spiritual needs through six months of encouragement and biblical counseling. VOM is working to help more Nigerian Christian widows like Gift receive this specialized care after similar painful experiences to bring Christ's hope to their souls and help them recover.



EPCConnection

EPCConnection is the news and information service of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, a denomination of Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional congregations. To the glory of God, the EPC family aspires to be a global movement of congregations engaged together in God's mission through transformation, multiplication, and effective biblical leadership, embodying Jesus' love to our neighbors near and far.



**To subscribe go to:
<https://epconnection.org>**

Everyone is Welcome!

Sunday morning Worship

9:15 - 9:30 Prayer and Share
9:40 - 10:20 Berean Sunday School
10:30 - Traditional worship
(Hymnals/piano)
Communion First Sunday of the month
Dish-to-Pass Luncheon
2nd Sunday of the month after church



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