



# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know Me.”  
John 10:14

## FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

## THE LONG ROAD TO MALAWI

By the time you are reading this, our mission team to Malawi will have already returned. In fact, we return four days before this issue of the Voice is released. As of this writing, we are merely days away from leaving all of the comforts of home to spend four days in airports and ten days on the mission field in Lilongwe, Malawi. This article will give you a peek into the past nine months of our preparation and to testify to God's goodness and grace throughout the process.

Last summer Ken Kretsinger and I talked about the trip that I was a part of in Madagascar. Ken ended the talk by simply saying, “one day I will get to go on one of those”. Just two short months after that talk in late September, Ken and I traveled to Johnstown, PA to join a weekend outreach ministry for a small church there. Before we left to come home, a worker for SOS Adventure named Jeff approached Ken. Jeff told Ken that after his work there, he would be great to have on a mission team to Malawi in June. Jeff asked if I would consider being a team leader for that mission. Ken and I were soon on board, and the rest began to fall into place.

SOS Adventure is a wonderful organization to serve on mission with because we see God do incredible things through us, but we also experience God doing incredible work in us. Our Malawi team went through a challenging nine month discipleship process. We memorized different scriptures each month. We each are responsible to prepare a four minute Gospel message and be ready to preach it whenever asked. We are also to have a 2-3 minute testimony ready to share whenever asked. Putting these together has been a meaningful experience for the team.

We joined with 170 other missionaries going to Malawi in two separate three day fasts. The fast itself was challenging, but it drew us much closer to God as we were preparing for this adventure. God had used this time to purify us, to speak to us, and to help us overcome fears and worries. He has also built a great unity within our team during this time. Unity in Christ is a powerful thing.

We have seen God at work through our meetings and even during our collection of the donated items. During one of our team meetings as we closed in prayer, God healed someone who suffered from chronic back pain!!!

This team that is being sent to Malawi is a group of regular people who serves an extraordinary God and believes that God will use us to do amazing things in His name.

Thank you to all who have supported us in prayer, encouragements, financially, and otherwise. We feeling greatly supported and look forward to the stories we will get to share about our great God!

*Pastor Jesse*

## **THE SHEPHERD'S FLOCK**

It was a delight on Sunday, June 3rd to dedicate the infant child of Laura and Dustin Kemplin. Little Finley Kemplin was born on November 1, 2018. We welcome this baby and her parents into family at Jenkins Memorial Church.

# “PRAY WITHOUT CEASING”

1 Thessalonians 5:17

There is a “spiritual exercise” that I recently read about that helps us to live in a conscious moment-by-moment communion with God. The results of this exercise begin to show clearly in one month. “Pray without ceasing,” said Paul. “In everything make your wants known unto God.” Have you ever noticed that difficult days come whenever we push Jesus out of our thoughts? With our busy schedules and demands on our time, it is becoming more difficult to “pray without ceasing.” Listed below are some suggestions to keep us focused on Jesus.

Offering a silent prayer for the people at whom you glance while at work, church or in a crowd is sure to keep our mind on Jesus. Think about the number of people that cross your path on any active day; neighbors, school personnel, cashiers, restaurant servers, etc. This is in addition to our usual daily prayers for family, friends, special prayer requests and prayers before our meals. Imagine offering a silent prayer for each person throughout the day. Ask the Lord to let you look at people through His eyes; colored with His love for them. Ask that they may know Him and know His will for their lives, and trust the Holy Spirit to guide your prayer.

Think of your Creator when out for a walk when you see flowers, trees, ocean, hills, sky, sunsets, rainbows, etc. “This is my Father’s world, and to my listening ears all nature sings...” Sing or hum a hymn or listen to Christian music on the radio. Reading and reflecting on His Word always brings us into communion with God. We can walk with Jesus through Galilee by walking with Him through the pages of His earthly history. Why not spend more time studying His Word or attending a Bible Study group? Daily devotionals are another way to guide our thoughts into a conversation with our Heavenly Father.

You may already have your own ways of helping you to realize that He is very near. Whispering “Jesus” or “Father” when I hear of disasters or escalating tensions all over the world on the evening news, helps me to remember that He is in control. Talking with God is one of our most precious privileges. Let’s invite Him to share everything we do, say or think – especially praising Him in the difficult times. “Seven times a day I praise you.” Psalm 119:164.

Starting our mornings and ending our days in constant communion gives us a “peace that passeth all understanding.” With God, every minute can be a fresh beginning full of joy. Why not start today “practicing the presence of God” and see what happens at the end of thirty days?

# Ladies Aid Congregational Report – April 22

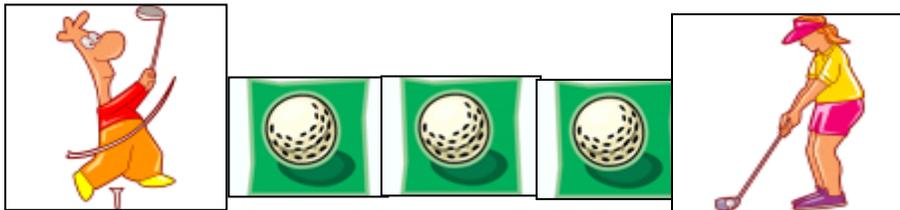
The Ladies Aid would like to thank everyone who supported our very successful Easter Egg sale. The Ladies Aid made a profit of \$1,563.00 on this event.

A special thank you to Ginger Lusby for chairing this event and to our volunteer egg makers, Dan & Deb McDowell, Sherry Kruger, Helen Edwards, Kelly McCloskey, Kitty Finley, Pat Haynie, Barb Richards and Linda Roze.

Our group donated \$1,300.00 to cover the cost of refinishing the floors in the Fellowship Hall. We also donated the food and manned the table for the Malawi Mission Trip Silent Auction.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Ladies Aid please call me at 410-360-6180 or 443-255-0582 or email me at [lynn.redding@comcast.net](mailto:lynn.redding@comcast.net).

*Lynn Redding*



**FORE!!** Well, the weather cooperated and the JMC 25th Annual Golf Tournament took place at Bay Hills Golf Club on Friday, June 8th. And, what a beautiful day it was with lots of great golf swings, lots of laughs over not so great golf swings, and good food to boot. The golf committee extends an overwhelming thank you to those of our church and local businesses who sponsored holes for the event. And, not to forget, many thanks for the efforts of a great committee and several volunteers.



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