



Southwest

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Perspective

CHURCH NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 14, 2020

When we go to the optometrist to check our vision, the doctor will often have us read from the eye chart. The purpose of this eye chart is to determine vision acuity - the ability to see detail with precision. For those of us who wear glasses or contacts, our visual acuity is most often less than 20/20 without the assistance. Sometimes, even with the visual assistance, we can't see everything perfectly clear.

I have to admit I haven't had my vision checked in more than a few years. And lately, I have noticed a distinct change in my clarity of vision. There are days sitting in front of the computer where I just have to get up to allow my eyes to refocus because everything gets blurry. One evening during revival, the combination of glasses and mask was giving me a headache, so I took my glasses off. Billy Huddleston instantly became little more than a blurry blob in my vision. When I put my glasses back on, I could see him much more clearly. It's clear I need to get my physical eyes checked.

This made me wonder about my spiritual eyes. This year, it has been a battle to see things clearly around us. People have lost jobs, there's continuous upheaval in DC, businesses have been destroyed by the pandemic and rioting, many of us are working and learning remotely, and we didn't see most of our friends and family outside of a computer screen for months. When things like this are happening - not one at a time, but all at once - it is difficult to keep perspective.

It's ironic that the year 2020 would be the year to force us to have a 20/20 perspective on life.

In II Chronicles 20, King Jehoshaphat faced a major challenge for the kingdom of Judah. He received a report that three different nations had banded together to attack Judah. Once more, these were nations with which Jehovah had made it clear they were not to engage. Jehoshaphat and Judah were in a precarious situation and needed assistance... fast!

So, Jehoshaphat did the only thing he knew to do - he prayed to the Lord for help. Pay close attention to the last line of Jehoshaphat's prayer - "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You."

God's answer to Jehoshaphat is His answer to us today - "You will not have to fight this battle... stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged... the Lord will be with you."

Jehoshaphat summed up God's response with this 20:20 vision - "Have faith in your God and you will be upheld. Have faith in His prophets (God's Word) and you will be successful."

We need spiritual eyes to see what God is doing in our world and in our lives; when it seems that all is falling apart. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You, Jesus!

Stephen Bechdol

“Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord”

Michael W. Smith

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



08-02-1999

YOU THINK YOUR DEVOTIONS ARE ROUGH?
... WHEN I WAS A KID WE HAD TO READ
THE ENTIRE BEGAT SECTION THREE TIMES
PER DAY ... IN KJV ... WHILE WALKING
THROUGH A BLIZZARD

Praises:

- Praise the Lord for our Alabaster Offering. We have been able to raise \$487.68 to help support the efforts being made across the world to build churches, hospitals, schools, and other projects.
- Praise the Lord for Pastor Scott and Cindy. They serve our church in numerous ways and we are so thankful for their ministry! Check out the last page of this newsletter for a way to show our appreciation to them!

Prayer Needs:

- Pray for the R!OT Youth Retreat in this weekend. May it be a time for our teens and the friends they have invited to unplug, rest, refresh, and fellowship together!
- Pray for our President, Government, First Responders, Military, and our Nation – For the Lord to bring peace and guidance for the elections, the Supreme Court nomination, and the continual unrest.

Hebrews 12:2

*Let us fix our eyes
on Jesus*

Upcoming Events & Announcements

R!OT Youth's REFRESH retreat is this weekend. Dana has sent out an email with details for all who are attending. Check that out! Praying for all involved with this amazing getaway!



In our Children's Department, we'll be continuing our unit on the Ten Commandments! We hope you can join us at 10:40 in the youth room!



This Sunday (Oct. 18th at 10:40am), the message will be delivered by Pastor Cheryl Beers. Her message is titled "What About Faith?" and comes to us from Hebrews 11:32-40. (*This service will not be on Facebook Livestream.*) Next Sunday (Oct. 25th at 10:40am), Pastor Keith Grove will be delivering the message. We hope to see you there!



Join us for Midweek Prayer Service:
Wednesdays at 6:30pm
Everyone Welcome!

Blake & Jenna Bolerjack
In Concert -
Sunday,
November 22, 2020
at 10:40am



Southwest Church's Annual Trunk & Treat
Saturday, October 31st from 4:00pm-6:00pm.

Due to COVID restrictions, we will be doing the following:

- We will have a limited number of cars providing candy. If you would like to participate, be sure to sign up in the Welcome Center. You can also join with one of the participating cars. Help us continue the Superhero theme by dressing up and decorating your cars as your favorite Superhero! * Not required.
- This will be a drive through event, and everyone attending will stay in their cars. Treats will be passed out to those attending via their car windows.
- There will be a route the cars will follow in and out of the church parking lot.
- Each car from the church will provide prepackaged bags with individually wrapped treats, and our church people will be wearing facemasks and gloves.
- We will need donated candy to provide to the public. All donated candy must be individually wrapped. There is a container near the welcome center to place your donations. If you would like to give money, you may place it in the offering (mark Trunk and Treat on the envelope) or give to Cindy Robinson.*



Over 50 Creative Ways to Bless your Pastor

Make sure that you show your deep appreciation for those who cherish you and diligently work as ministers among you.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12 TPT

FAITHFULLY PRAY

The best way to help your pastor is to faithfully and regularly pray for:

- Intimacy with God
- Marital love and unity
- Spiritual protection
- Divine guidance
- Emotional and physical well-being
- Parenting skills
- Genuine friendships
- Financial provisions
- Daily wisdom
- Personal encouragement
- Helpful mentors
- Effective ministry
- Time management
- Quality study and prayer times
- Helpful training and books
- Leadership skills

FONDNESS

- Let the pastor know how God is specifically using them to bless, help and teach you to follow God.
- Remember your pastor's birthday and anniversary with a card, gift or social media post.
- Show appreciation for your pastor's strengths and give grace in their weaknesses.

FREEDOM

- Give your pastor's spouse the freedom to be themselves and to find their own niche at the church.
- Let your pastor's children "be kids," care about them, and pray for them.

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN

- Prepare a meal or baked goods for them (ask about favorite meals or certain foods to avoid).
- Give your pastor a gift card for restaurants, fast food or coffee shops.

- Give your pastor food from your garden, orchard, hunting or fishing trips.
- Invite your pastor and family to your home or a restaurant for a meal.
- Invite your pastor and family to go fishing, sailing, camping, hunting, to the gym, concerts, plays or sporting events. Offer to cover some or all of the costs.
- Offer your pastor's family sports, concert or event tickets.
- If you have a vacation home, timeshare, recreational vehicle or camping gear, offer to let your pastor use it.
- Share frequent flyer miles that can be used for conferences, vacation, mission trips or holiday travel.
- Offer your pastor the use of your dependable vehicle, SUV or minivan for a holiday family trip or vacation.

FREELY SHARE

Share your skills and time to help with any of the following items:

- Babysitting
- Auto maintenance and repair
- Home repairs, maintenance and projects
- Decorating, painting and wallpapering
- Haircuts and beauty treatments
- Medical, dental and chiropractic care
- Lawn and garden upkeep
- Legal, estate and financial services
- Tutoring or lessons for children

If needed, communicate in advance if there are any out-of-pocket costs the pastor will need to cover (e.g., parts for a car repair or materials for home repair).

FINANCES

Faithfully give to your church, so your pastor can be properly compensated. Beyond the pastor's church salary, the Lord may prompt certain individuals to provide personal funding to help with any of the following items:

- Bless Your Pastor offering
- Marriage conference or retreat costs
- Christian camp fees
- Back to school fees, clothing or supplies
- Children's college tuition
- Mission trips
- Lessons or tutoring
- Family or couple's vacation or getaway
- Pastor's conference, seminar or training
- Seminary courses or sabbatical
- Student loan debt
- Retirement savings
- Medical expenses

PAY IT FORWARD

Most people have heard about "paying it forward." Do you know you can also pay it forward by passing along possessions you no longer use or need? Possible items could include appliances, furniture, musical equipment, clothing, sports equipment or electronics. Ask if the items you may have available are actually needed and wanted by the pastor's family. Also, be sure they are in good condition and will not need costly repairs.

Note: Please be prepared to graciously allow your pastor to decline anything that you offer. Also note that most items mentioned here are not normally tax-deductible to the giver, but are to be given out of gratefulness to God for what he has given to you to Bless Your Pastor.