

Southwest *Church of the Nazarene*

CHURCH NEWSLETTER
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WORK OUT YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

Do you remember the elementary school playground at recess? Kids would quickly eat their lunch and then line up to go to recess outside. Freedom! It was the best part of a child's day: swings, basketball, monkey bars. That is... until someone sat in your swing first, or they ran faster than you to grab the basketball, or three kids jumped in line before you on the monkey bars. Then, the arguments began! Freedom could quickly turn into mayhem as tempers began to flare. Thankfully, teachers were there to sort things out or provide directions to the principal's office. Working out differences, exercising patience, and being a peacemaker isn't easy, but it is required if we want good relationships.

Conflict is not anything new. In fact, the earth's first couple had two boys named Cain and Abel, and Cain became so angry at his brother that he actually took his life. Conflict can separate the best of friends, take down businesses with co-owners, disrupt churches, and divide husbands and wives, as well as parents and children. Conflict is inevitable in a world affected by the Fall of Humanity, but it doesn't have to dismantle our relationships.

One day, as the disciples and many others were listening to Jesus on a mountainside teaching, one of the disciples asked him, "Lord, teach us to pray." Luke records Jesus' words, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. ***And forgive us our sins, for we also***

forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" (Luke 11:2-4 NKJV).

This prayer was to be a daily prayer. Yes, daily. In the real world, each day may present a new trouble, new skirmish, or offense by you or to you. As we seek God's forgiveness by faith, the grace we receive in turn we are able to offer in forgiveness to others. It is a cause-and-effect situation. In simple terms, God wants our relationship with Him to mimic our relationship with people.

It sounds easy right? "Just forgive." There is a reason forgiveness is hard; sin always demands a sacrifice. For God to forgive us cost Him His Son's life. Loving someone – friend, family, or foe – requires "God-like" love, which will cost you. You may have to lose yourself... your pride, your comfort, your way, your attitude.

Why is it so important to "Work Out Your Relationships"? At the depths of God heart is redeeming love. He loves to restore relationships the devil (the adversary; accuser) is trying to divide and breakdown. As believers, we are called to this as well. Remember what Jesus also shared, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be the sons (and daughters) of God" (Matthew 5:9).

Pastor Scott & Cindy

PRAISES:

- Praise the Lord for a great service Sunday! Everyone enjoyed Bro. Acrame Charles preaching, the interpreting by Kado Kapinga, and the songs led by Imani Ekmobe. May God bless this ministry in the days ahead!
- Praise the Lord for a giving church! Each week I am amazed how our church family loves to give to the Lord and support the church. I know the Lord will bless our giving, according to Malachi 3:10, "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts. "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it." NKJV
- Praise the Lord for a donation of a snow blower this week at church! It was great timing as we are experiencing "all of winter" this week. Thank you for being a blessing!
- Praise the Lord that there are only 30 days before Spring! As Virgil A. Kraft writes, "Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world." We are ready and waiting!

Psalm 62:5-6, 8 NKJV

"My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved. Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us."

PRAYER NEEDS:

- Please pray for the homeless and those struggling to survive financially.
- Please pray for those battling depression and mental health issues during this time.
- Please pray for shut-ins from our church.
- Please pray for neighbors – we can show Christ's love to them.
- Please pray for the Lost in our world.
- Please pray for Swahili Ministry in our church.
- Please pray for our Church: pray for God's anointing and direction for ministry through COVID and beyond – that we would remain strong and focused on the Great Commission of Christ.
- Please pray for our Country – for a spiritual renewal.

Please see the mailed and emailed versions of the newsletter for the personal prayer requests.

Stay Safe and Warm!

The Love of God

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell
The guilty pair bowed down with care
God gave His Son to win
His erring child He reconciled
And pardoned from his sin

When years of time shall pass away
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall
When men who here refuse to pray
On rocks and hills and mountains call
God's love so sure shall still endure
All measureless and strong
Redeeming grace to Adam's race
The saints and angels song

Could we with ink the ocean fill
And were the skies of parchment made
Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry
Nor could the scroll contain the whole
Though stretched from sky to sky

*O love of God how rich and pure
How measureless and strong
It shall forevermore endure
The saints and angels song*

By Frederick Martin Lehman
and Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai
Words: Public Domain



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ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 21st, Sunday – 10:40am Worship Service: New Members, Baptisms.
- February 22nd, Monday – 6:30pm to 8:00pm MOPS Meeting
- February 28th, Sunday - 10:40am Worship Service: District Superintendent Dr. Ron Blake will be speaking.
- February 28th, End of Church Year
- March 4th, Thursday - End of Church Year: Reports Due (SDMI, NMI, NYI, Treasurers, Etc.)
- March 7th, Sunday – 10:40am Worship Service: Annual Church Elections
- March 8th, Monday – 6:30pm to 8:00pm MOPS Meeting
- March 14th, Sunday – 10:40am Worship Service
- March 21st, Sunday – 10:30am Worship Service: Olivet Music & Preaching Ambassadors
- March 22nd, Monday – 6:30pm to 8:00pm MOPS Meeting
- March 28th, Sunday – 10:40am Worship Service



Mission Donation Opportunity

With missions overseas greatly impacted by COVID-19, Allen Brown has a vision to do more mission work here in the United States with a project very near to his heart. He would like to purchase a “Jesus Film Backpack” and use this equipment to go and show the Jesus Film to many others – sharing the Good News with fellow Americans who haven’t yet seen this important film. His cost to purchase the backpack is \$2,000. He has already managed to raise \$700. If you would like to help provide a donation to his project, please see Allen Brown. If he receives more than the \$1,300 needed, he’ll apply that to the next Jesus Film project. Thank you from Allen!

Join us for Prayer Meeting on Wednesdays at 6:30pm! Let’s bring our petitions to the Lord and pray for one another!

Reminder: If we make the decision to cancel or delay a planned church service or activity, we will be sure to put this information out there (typically by 8:00am for morning service or as soon as we know for any service) on our Facebook page (at Indy Southwest Naz), website (www.swnazarene.org), and on several local new stations (both can be found on the television channels or on the websites). *Please check more than one – as sometimes they are potentially slower to get updated due to the high volume of changes/calls submitted.*

www.wthr.com (WTHR, local 13/NBC)
www.theindychannel.com (WRTV, local 6/ABC)
www.fox59.com (WXIN, local 59/FOX)
www.wishtv.com (WISH, local 8/The CW)
www.cbs4indy.com (WTTV, local 4/CBS)

Year End Help with Missions

We are wrapping up the church year but are a little short on meeting our goals for Missions. If you made a pledge for Faith Promise and got behind on your giving, or if you would like to help take care of the final amounts we want to give, please send it via online giving, regular mail, or bring it with you this Sunday. We appreciate your giving! We love supporting our missionaries, as well as being a ten percent giving church each year! Thanks in advance, and may the Kingdom of God increase!

Your gift makes the regional ministries of

